



How ESSENCE operates

Day-to-day operation

The ESSENCE secretariat is hosted at the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases of the World Health Organization (WHO/TDR) based in Geneva, Switzerland; as a global health research organization that both gives and receives donor funds, TDR is well suited to its host role.

ESSENCE agencies are advised by a Steering Committee which provides external scientific and technical input into the planning, implementation and review of the initiative's workplan and activities.

Interaction between agencies

ESSENCE agencies interact with one another through meetings and workshops, as well as via interagency communications. This allows ESSENCE members to:

- identify synergies
- increase coherence in funding activities
- improve strategic cooperation between partners (particularly among bilateral development agencies, funding organizations, international health programmes and universities)

In turn, this increases the value of resources and actions for health research. The intention is to define concerted methods of collaboration to get best impact at country level.

Face-to-face meetings are held twice a year, usually as a side event to other major events or conferences that the majority of ESSENCE members are attending. Representatives of other groups (such as universities, research institutes, ministries of health, NGOs etc.) are also invited to participate in ESSENCE meetings. In addition, a number of teleconferences are held through the year to discuss issues and update members on progress.

How is ESSENCE financed?

Core funding is provided by WHO/TDR, Sida and other ESSENCE members. This covers the costs of secretariat staff, a communication platform, site visits, consultants and commissioned work and documentation.

Individual ESSENCE projects are sponsored by interested agencies. Joint funding for projects and activities is also sought on a case-by-case basis.