

# CREA-N Uses CRIO to Expand Clinical Research Opportunities in East Africa

## Fast Fact

Africa bears 25% of the disease burden globally, but only hosts 1% of clinical trials.

## Growing Site Network

CREA-N has four site locations in Kenya and Rwanda.

## Key Differentiator

From the outset, CREA-N wanted to differentiate itself and be technology-centered in its approach.

## INTRODUCTION

The Clinical Research Health Network (CREA-N) is a site network in Kenya and Rwanda dedicated to bringing clinical trials to underserved communities. From its outset, it decided to be fully electronic and selected CRIO as its CTMS, eSource and eRegulatory provider. **Despite initial skepticism from some stakeholders, CREA-N found CRIO greatly enhances productivity, improves PI oversight, and has won over many of the CRAs it works with.** CRIO can be a catalyst for expansion of clinical research in underserved regions like East Africa.

## CLINICAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA

Africa bears 25% of the disease burden globally, but hosts only 1% of clinical trials.<sup>1</sup> According to experts, the pharma industry recognizes the untapped potential of Africa to power global clinical trials. However, lagging regulatory timelines and perceptions of an immature site infrastructure hold them back.

One of the critical investments the site ecosystem in Africa could make is in site technology. By investing in site technology such as CTMS and eSource, research sites can modernize their practice, improve performance and data quality, and more easily enable remote monitoring. All of these outcomes will enhance the competitiveness of the region as a clinical trial destination.



## CREA-N's IMPLEMENTATION OF CRIO

Dr. Jacqueline Mirera of CREA-N has been practicing medicine for 15 years, and working in clinical research for the last eight. In 2022, she helped launch CREA-N, a site network dedicated to making clinical research more accessible in underserved areas within East Africa which are affected by infectious and other diseases. Today, CREA-N has four site locations in Kenya and Rwanda, partnering with local health care institutions to bring trials to their patients and to the local communities.

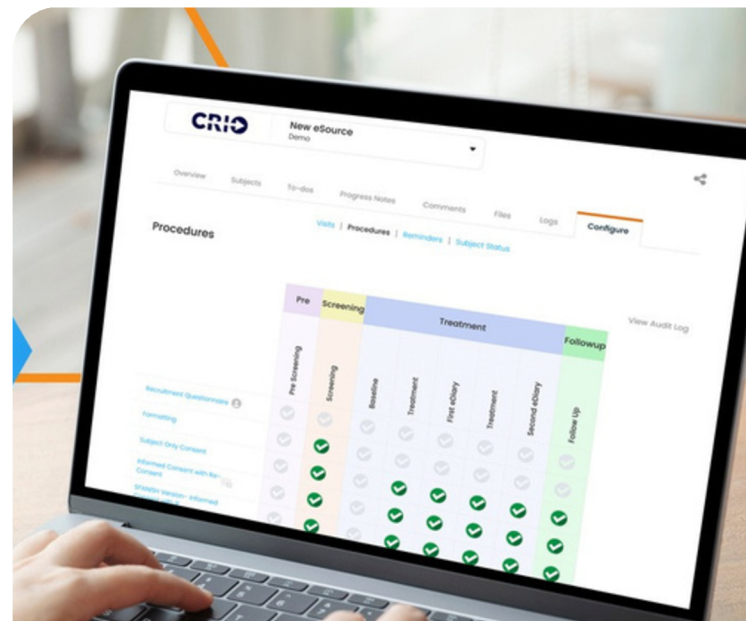
From the outset, CREA-N wanted to differentiate itself and be technology-centered in its approach. After reviewing several vendors, CREA-N moved forward with CRIO's CTMS, eSource and eRegulatory modules.

CREA-N began implementation of CRIO in 2023 and focused on configuring their CTMS and eSource workflows. After attending weekly training sessions seeing how to remotely recruit patients, collect study data, manage budgeting, and more, **users at CREA-N have found that leaving paper source in the past and instead using CRIO allowed them major improvements.**

The network can more easily operate in multiple locations, as Dr. Mirera and other Principal Investigators have the ability to provide remote oversight of all aspects of the clinical trial, from recruiting to scheduling to data collection. Financial reporting and invoicing are seamlessly integrated with the eSource data collection process, enabling the network to manage its revenue and cash flow effectively. Site staff are able to work and collaborate online instead of spending hours traveling to and from sites.

**"The monitors were not used to the electronic source, so they questioned whether we could do this, but we told them this was our process. Now those monitors really like the system because it's easy to navigate and they can log in remotely if they need to."**

**Dr. Jacqueline Mirera**  
**Principal Investigator, CREA-N**



In recent years, CRIO has experienced rapid growth in interest from countries outside North America. Overall CRIO is present in almost 30 countries worldwide, with over 100 site clients in Europe, and roughly 50 sites in both Asia and Latin America.

## OUTCOME

Research site technology has matured in the United States and other countries, but is still underutilized in many developing regions. CREA-N's successful implementation of CRIO proves that the technology can scale beyond large economies, and serve as a platform for expanding clinical research access in underserved areas. It is imperative that the clinical research community focuses on improving the accessibility of technology globally, especially throughout both rural and urban Africa.

CRIO remains steadfast in its mission to expand globally. As explained in a recent blog post, CRIO is in process of launching multiple language versions of its software, and already has 24/7 multi-lingual customer support and training capabilities.

**CRIO is truly a global platform, with the ability to serve sites anywhere in the world. Sponsors don't have to wait for site adoption to grow organically – they can accelerate adoption by offering CRIO on their trials to emerging regions as part of Central eSource.**

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### LANGUAGE PREFERENCES

By the end of 2025, our system will be available in 6 languages. Individual users will be able to set their personal language preference.

24/7

### LIVE CHAT

We have a 24/7, multi-lingual live chat service for customer support. Additionally, our Help Center has instruction manuals translated into multiple languages.

## References:

1: Vaccine Works: <https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/improving-access-innovative-medicines-africa-starts-clinical-trials>

## ABOUT CRIO

CRIO is a leading provider of eSource solutions for clinical research. Our platform streamlines data collection and management, ensuring protocol compliance and reducing errors. By eliminating paper binders and automating workflows, we help clinical sites and sponsors save time and money, improve data quality, and enhance patient safety.

