

Decision on the Postdoc research grants under EAR-VU Project

I. Background about the EAR-VU Project

The *Eastern Africa Hub for Behavioral and Social Science Research and Capacity Strengthening for Vaccine Uptake (EAR-VU)* aims to strengthen research capacity to understand social and behavioral factors affecting vaccine uptake in the region. The Hub seeks to generate high-quality evidence to inform policy and practice, while building a sustainable network of early-career researchers in behavioral and social sciences for health in the Eastern Africa region. The project is a collaboration between the University of Rwanda (lead), Makerere University in Uganda, University of Nairobi in Kenya, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, and the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

II. Role and description

The EAR-VU Postdoctoral Fellowship provides an opportunity for recent PhD graduates to:

1. Develop research capacity in behavioural and social sciences, with mentorship and networking opportunities.
2. Support early-career researchers to conduct innovative, policy-relevant research aligned with EAR-VU thematic areas.
3. Engage with policy-makers, civil society, and health sector actors to promote research uptake for the enhancement of vaccination uptake in the region

III. Decision on the Postdoc research grants under EAR-VU Project

The selection committee assessed the applicants' proposals, considered their CVs and the results of the interview conducted on Friday, May 24, 2026. The following applicants were recommended for the Postdoc grants under the EAR_VU project.

S/N	Applicant name	Gender	Title	Country
1	Domina Asingizwe	F	Evaluating community co-designed strategies to reduce vaccine hesitancy and improve vaccine uptake in rural Rwanda: A Mixed-methods research design	RW
2	Magolanga Shagembe	M	Beyond Individual Choice: A Socio-Ecological Analysis of Social and Behavioral Determinants of Vaccine Uptake among Informal Workers in Urban Tanzania	TZ
3	Trhas Tadesse Berhe	F	Developing a Community Conversation Toolkit to Improve Vaccine Uptake and Reduce Hesitancy in Legetafo-Legedadi, Oromia, Ethiopia	ET
4	Addisu Tsegaye	M	Vaccine Hesitancy or Systemic Failure? Interrogating the Limits of Vaccine Hesitancy in the Context of Ethiopian Refugee Settlements	ET
5	Henry Komakech	M	From policy intent to coverage: Evaluating National Immunization Policies for Refugees in Uganda	UG

Done at Kigali, April 29, 2026

Dr. Alphone Muleefu
Principal Investigator