



Workshop Report

Integrating social sciences in One Health research during epidemics

July 14-15th 2022

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Introduction

On the 14th and 15th of July 2022, The Global Health Network supported the 2-day virtual workshop “Integrating social sciences in One Health research during epidemics” in conjunction with Africa CDC, PANDORA-ID Net, African Union, CHATHAM House and UCL.

The social context of epidemics is increasingly recognised as important in responding to them. However, it is not always clear when primary research in social sciences is necessary to help an outbreak response, and when it is needed, which different disciplines in social sciences are most useful, and how to integrate their methods into a response.

Social sciences can significantly contribute to the understanding of how to respond to an epidemic holistically. Without an understanding of how anthropology, behavioural science, sociology, geography, linguistics, economics and so forth, epidemic responses will be inadequate. This is further emphasized by the One Health commission (One Health Commission, 2022).

Designed specifically with first responders to outbreaks in mind, the agenda is sensitive to the practical constraints on managing outbreaks, what research activities could be feasible, and what responsibilities first responders might assume by being involved with such activities.

Registration

A total of **1187** registered for this event, from **92** countries.

Registrations countries:

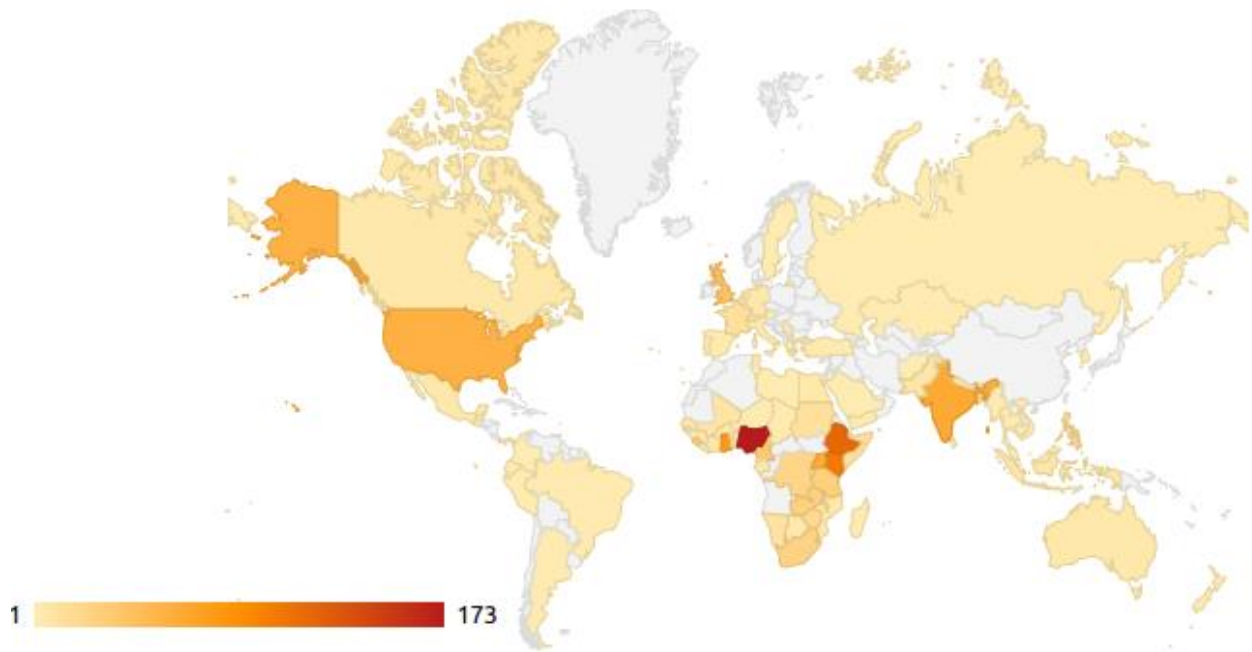
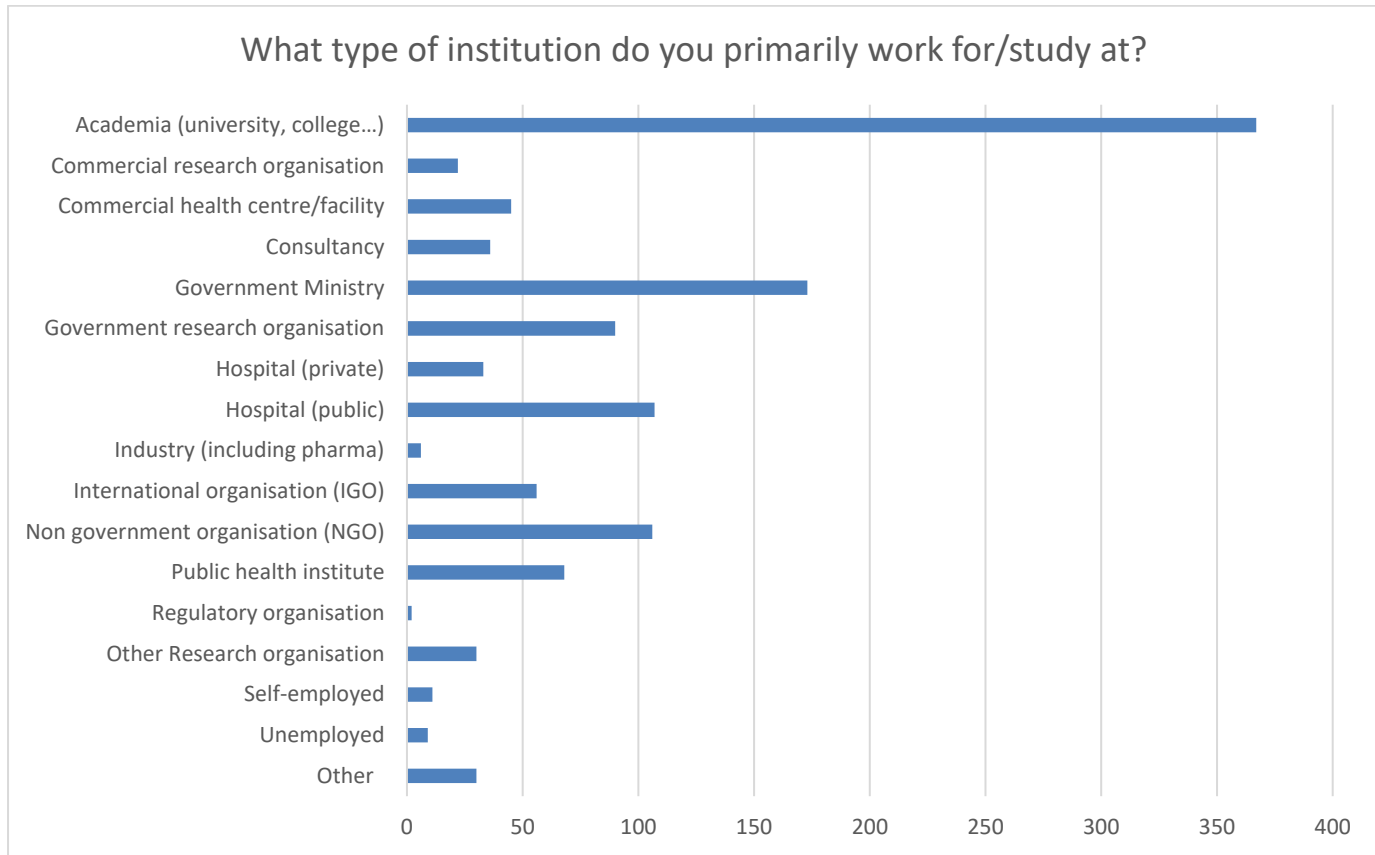


Figure 1. Heat map showing geographical distribution of registrants, covering 92 countries across the world. The scale bar shows how colour corresponds to number of registrants from each country.

Registrants by primary institution:

Other	30
Unemployed	9
Self-employed	11
Other Research organisation	30
Regulatory organisation	2
Public health institute	68
Non government organisation (NGO)	106
International organisation (IGO)	56
Industry (including pharma)	6
Hospital (public)	107
Hospital (private)	33
Government research organisation	90
Government Ministry	173
Consultancy	36
Commercial health centre/facility	45
Commercial research organisation	22
Academia (university, college...)	367



Summary of Activities

Day 1

- The first day was introduced by Sarah Edwards and Dr Elvis Temfack.
- Session 1, '**Integrating social science as part of One Health in epidemic research response**' was chaired by Blessing Silaigwana. We heard from Aliyu Ahmed and Robert Agyarko.
- Session 2, '**Disciplines, knowledge and methods in the social sciences**' was chaired by Julius Mugwagwa. The speakers were Anwar Musah, Keneth Iceland Kasozi and Divine Fuh.
- Session 3 was titled "**When is primary research needed for One Health research response, how can theories be used and local knowledge harnessed?**" It was chaired by Blessing Silaigwana and the speakers were Lucienne Talba, Robert West and Rashid Asumana.
- The day was summarized by Blessing Silaigwana and Sarah Edwards.

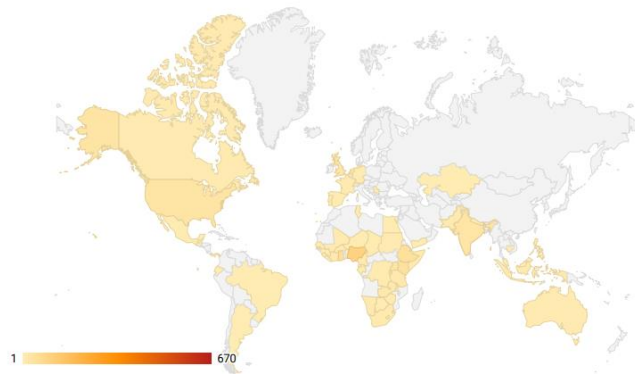
Day 2

- The second day was introduced by Sarah Edwards.
- Session 4 (the first session of Day 2) was titled '**Cases of integrated research across disciplines during epidemics and importance of collaboration**' and was chaired by Prof. Osama Ahmed. Speaking on the topic were Rashid Ansumana and Elysée Nouvet.
- Session 5, '**Worked examples in mixed methods and analyses for epidemic response**' was chaired by Sarah Edwards. The speakers were Irene Mremi, Juliet Bedford and Simone Carter.
- The final part of the workshop, Session 6, was an interactive session, where participant used an online collaborative tool, mentimeter, in a number of interactive activities, including survey questions and case studies, relating to the topic.

Attendee report

Demographics

There were **522 attendees** and among them 314 participants completed the feedback form.



The majority of the attendees came from Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, the United States, India, DRC and Uganda as in the table below.

Nigeria	90	South Africa	8
Ghana	51	Congo	8
Ethiopia	41	Philippines	8
Kenya	39	Gambia	7
United States	27	Mali	7
India	26	Somalia	6
DRC	23	Zimbabwe	6
Uganda	22	Malawi	6
United Kingdom	20	Namibia	5
Cameroon	13	Rwanda	4
Zambia	12	France	4
Tanzania	10	Pakistan	4
Sierra Leone	9	Burundi	3

Primary occupation of participants

The majority of the participants reported to be academics and working for the universities or academic institutions, students, research and laboratory teams. Other cadres included medical doctors, clinical staff such as nurses, midwives and public health professionals.



Participants feedback about the workshop

What were the main reasons for attending the workshop?



There was a balanced mix of responses, with many people choosing multiple reasons. The workshop element, with learning objectives and certificates of attendance, addresses the needs of those who attended for their career and for their research.

What would you do differently after attending this workshop?



This word cloud gives an indication of responses; typical sentences include ‘developing my communication skills’, ‘integrating social sciences’, ‘engagement with community’.

Participants responses

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The workshop was a good fit for my needs	218 (69.8%)	92 (29 %)	2 (0.6%)	2(0.6%)
The concepts and skills presented were explained well	190 (60.5%)	121 (38.5)	2 (0.6%)	1 (0.3%)
There is at least one thing that I will do differently or act on as a result of attending this workshop	169 (54%)	136 (43%)	6 (2%)	3 (1%)

What would you like to change in future workshops?

There were 69 responses, which could be broadly categorized into comments on Time, Interactivity, Blended learning, Presentations and a handful of other comments, which didn’t fit into the other categories.

Blended

9 responses asked for a combination of in person and online training in this area.

Presentations

There were 4 comments relating to presentations, including requesting presentations before the event and for additional materials (we make presentations and other material available on the hub afterwards).

Interactivity

11 comments were on interactivity in the workshops, including requests for more interaction between participants and speakers, for one-to-one talks with speakers (not realistic in this format) and more time for interaction. There were two comments saying that the interactive activity on day two was too long. One enjoyed it, one didn’t. There seems to be an interest in more interactivity.

Time

The majority (36) of the responses were relating to time, either time of the sessions, the days, or the start time of the

sessions.

9 responses wanted the workshop to be extended over 3 days or a week. With 6 further responses asking for shorter sessions in each day.

There were 3 comments requesting regular, quarterly events.

7 responses asked for more time for each presentation.

Other responses were less clear, calling for better time management but without clearer recommendations.

Other

This included a request to segment participants by pre-workshop knowledge level, to provide pre and post test questions, and increase representations from communities through short pre-recorded interviews, which can be played throughout the workshop.