



Programme PAC-CI



# Building a Research Network through Clinical Research Collaboration

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Programme PAC-CI

24 November 2022

The Global Health Network Conference 2022, University of Cape Town, South Africa



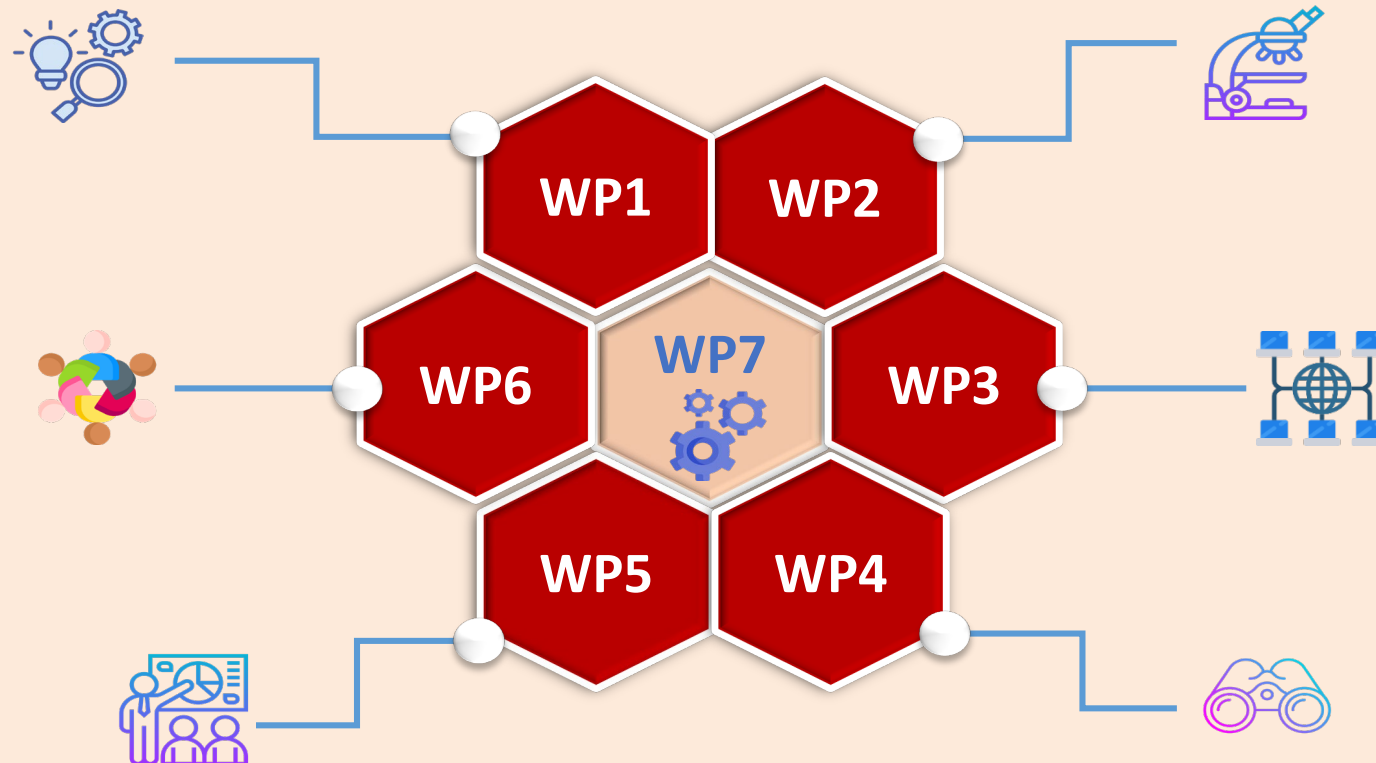
# Background

- Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is prone to frequent epidemics which need a coordinated and appropriate response.
- One of the pillars of an appropriate response is a robust research network that can rapidly investigate these epidemics and provide information for the prevention, control, and management of the outbreak.
- There are hardly any research networks in SSA focused on epidemic response and research
- The African Coalition for Epidemic Research Response and Training (ALERRT) Consortium is a network that is building a patient-centered clinical research network to respond to epidemics in SSA

# ALERRT Network

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**19 Partners**

**13 Countries**

**4 European countries**

**9 African Countries**

# FISSA Study – Objectives

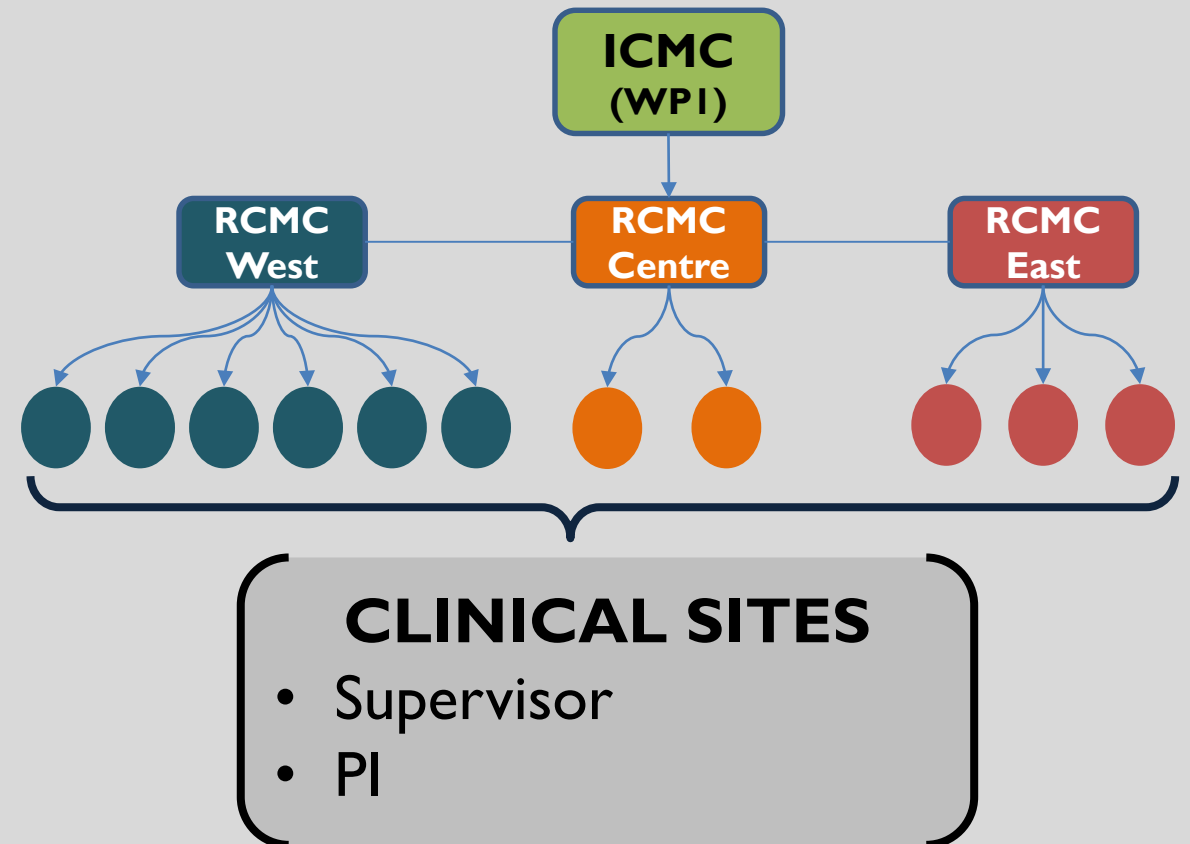
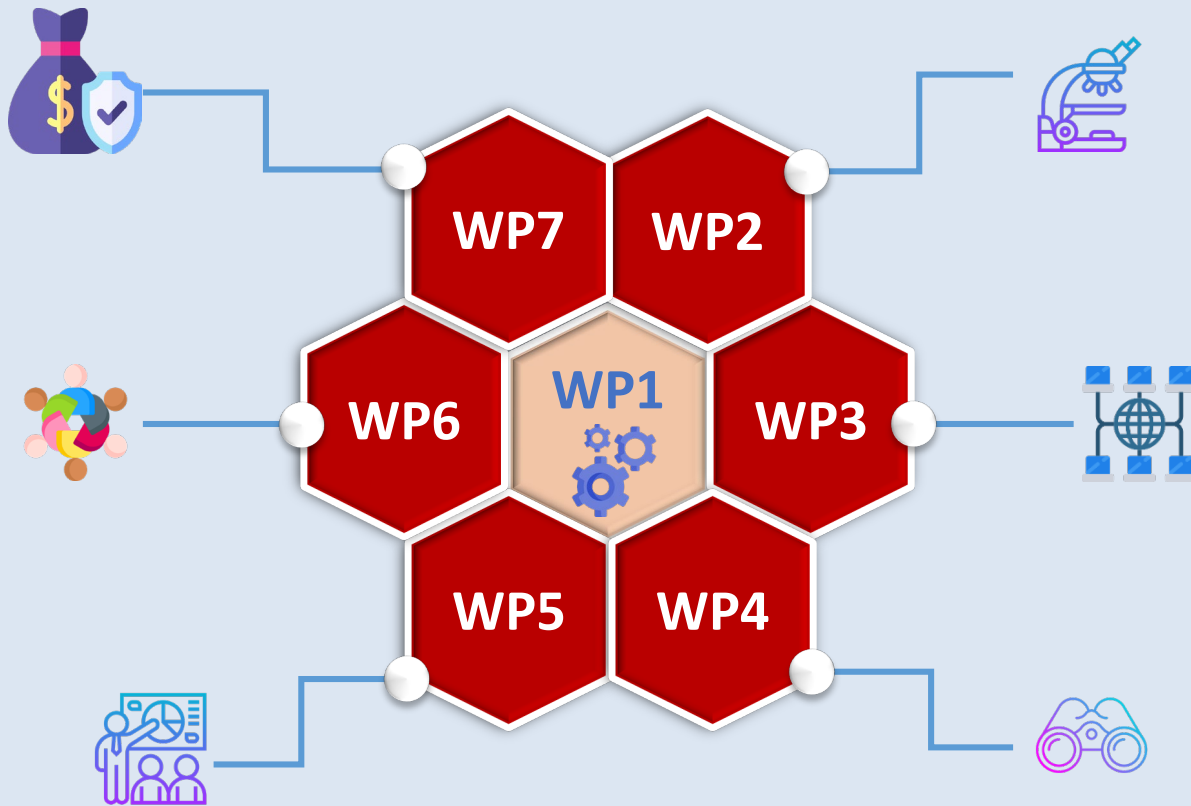
- **Scientific Objectives**

- *to describe the epidemiology, clinical aspects, and management of febrile illnesses in sub-Saharan Africa*

- **Strategic Objectives**

- *to build a clinical research network capable of responding rapidly to epidemics.*

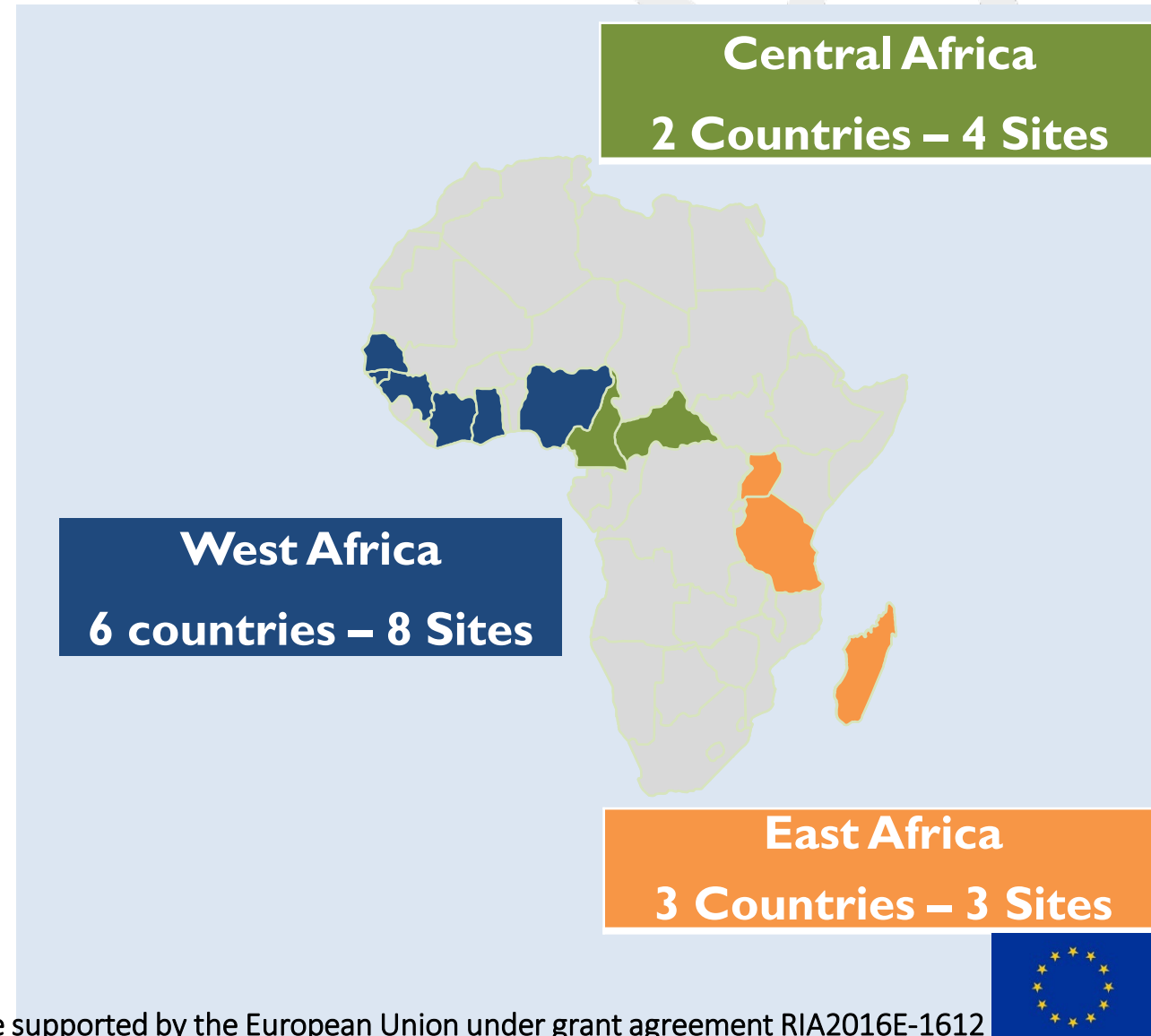
# FISSA Study - Organisation



# FISSA Study - Management

## Set up process

- Site selection procedure drafting
- Proposition of clinical sites by ALERRT partners
  - *26 sites proposed by 16 partners*
- Validation of selected sites by Steering Committee
- Endorsement of validated list by Executive Committee
- 15 sites enrolled participants in 11 countries



# FISSA Study - Implementation

**Approvals of Ethics  
committees**

**First inclusion  
Dec. 2019**

**Drafting protocol &  
tools development**

**Training**

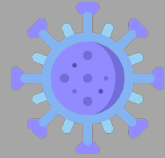
**End of recruitment  
Dec. 2021**

- Monthly steering committee meetings
- Monthly international coordination meetings
- Bi-monthly regional meetings
- Monitoring visits

# FISSA Study - Challenges



Managing several ethics committees with different procedures



COVID 19 pandemic (*reduction in inclusions, site visits impossible*)



Turn over in trained staffs



Communication difficulties due to language barriers



# FISSA Study - Achievements



- Introduction to research with the development of an interest in research in some teams
- Managing in a bilingual way (E-mails, reports, documents...)
- Remote monitoring of the study to respond to an unexpected restriction on travel due to the COVID 19 through the implementation of procedures to adapt to the situation

# FISSA Study - Achievements

- Survey on laboratory capacity in collaboration with WP2
- Development of e-learning module on the protocol in collaboration with WP5
- Establishment of a research network through the linking of researchers from different fields, different languages in different regions with different practices
- Development of collaborations on new projects



# CONCLUSION

- FISSA succeeded in creating a network of research sites that has grown stronger over the years.
- Several lessons learned from the implementation of this study will be used to strengthen and expand this network.
- A model of research partnerships for an equitable response to health emergencies
- A Network built and ready for new research on epidemic-prone diseases

# Acknowledgments

