ALERRT Capacity Strengthening Programme – knowledge brokering across international networks to support co-development and enhance regional research capabilities

Bonny Baker[1], Frank Kagoro[1,2], **Leonard Numfor**[3,*], Palmer Masumbe Netongo[3,4,11], Anani Badje[5,12], Joseph Bonney[6,13], John H Amuasi[13,16,17], Dennis Ernest Ssesanga[7,8], Bernard Kikaire[7,8], Francine Ntoumi[9,14,15], Sylvie Kwedi[3], Bai Lamin Dondeh[17], Harry van Loen[18], Flávia Thedim Costa Bueno[10], Trudie Lang[1]

[1]The Global Health Network, Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom, [2]Collaborating Centre for Optimising Antimalarial Therapy, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, [3]University of Yaoundé I, Yaoundé, Cameroon, [4]Initiative to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Africa (ISHReCA), [5]Programme ANRS Coopération Côte d'Ivoire (Programme PAC-CI), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, [6]Department of Emergency Medicine, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana, [7]Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR), Entebbe, Uganda, [8]Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), Entebbe, Uganda, [9]Fondation Congolaise pour la Recherche Medicale (FCRM), Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, [10]Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, [11]School of Science, Navajo Technical University, Crownpoint, New Mexico, United States of America, [12]Université de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, [13]Global Health and Infectious Disease Research Group, Kumasi Center for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine, Kumasi, Ghana, [14]Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, [15]Institute for Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany, [16]School of Public Health, Department of Global Health, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, [17]Bernhard Nocht Institute of Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany, [17]Medical Research Council Gambia at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, [18]Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium

Background

Strong expertise exists within regional and international research networks, so active sharing has the ability to improve the research capabilities of study teams and broader communities of researchers; transferring knowledge and tacit learning between organisations, disease areas and settings. As part of the African coaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training (ALERRT) consortium, we harnessed The Global Health Network's well-regarded mechanisms for building a community of practice and connecting teams, research programmes and networks; enabling 'know-how' to move effectively between them.

Methods

Key to this approach is the dynamic pairing of the digital platform and the structured regional initiatives. With the collaboration of multiple research networks, including PANDORA-ID-NET, EACCR, CANTAM, WANETAM, TESA, REDe, core resources and training materials generated by the study teams are reflected on the platform; enhancing the learning and the utility afforded by these to as many other researchers and teams globally.
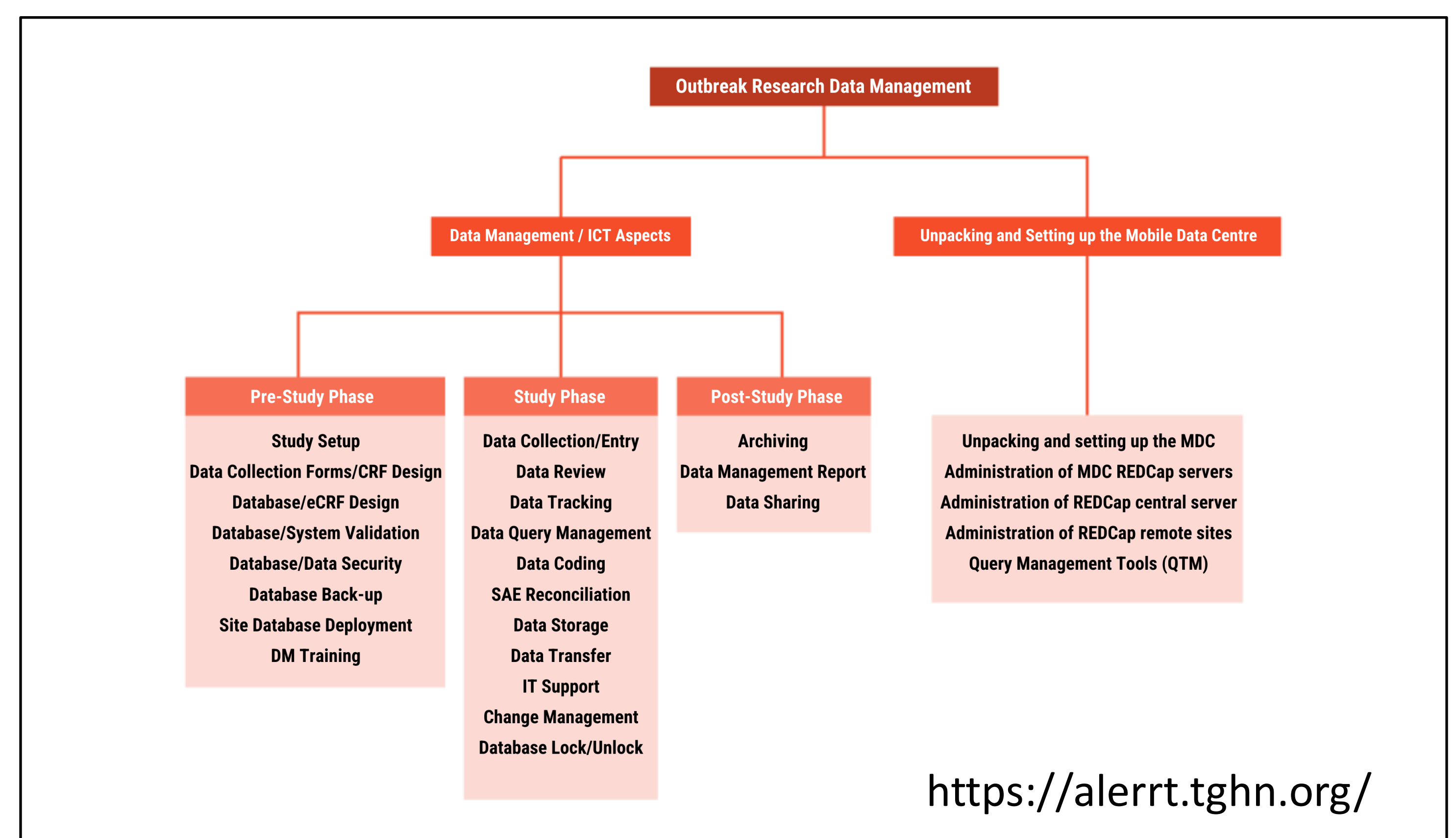
Figure 1: Collaborating Research Networks

Results

A range of mediums is used to deliver and disseminate skills-based and research implementation learning. This includes i) *Toolkits* for setting up practical workshops and supported learning sessions to enhance the institutional research environment; ii) Hosting *webinars*, to ensure a wider opportunity to engage healthcare professionals in research efforts, key lessons and recommendations; iii) *Study profiles* which include protocols and patient information sheets, which can be readily downloaded and modified by others to raise standards and speed up research; and iv) new *eCourses* identified through workshops, collaborative partners, and the research programmes themselves; authored by regional experts. This approach amplifies the expertise housed within any one research programme, scaling the applicability of methods and processes.

Figure 2: Outbreak Research Data Management Training Module

https://alerrt.tghn.org/

Conclusions

By actively convening excellence between networks, organisations, diseases and settings, the ALERRT community continues to deliver sustainable impact to other researchers well beyond the immediate consortium partners.

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