

 English, Português, Español



Register.

# *What is a Pathfinder Study?*

## Tools and Benefits

06/08/24, 15:00 UK | 11:00 BR/AR | 20:00 BD

THE  
GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK  
LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARRIBEAN

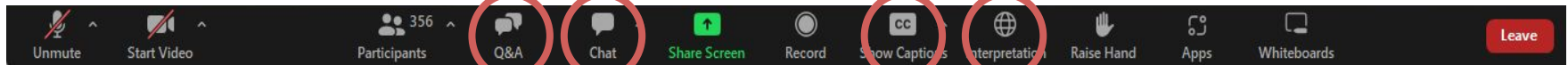


THE  
GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK  
ASIA



# Housekeeping

- This webinar is being recorded and will be shared on **The Global Health Network platform**.
- This event will be held in English, Portuguese, and Spanish, with simultaneous translation available in all three languages. Navigate to the toolbar, click on the **Language Interpretation function** and select your desired language input. To automatically translate the speech to subtitles, click the **Closed Captions function** and select any other chosen language.
- Due to the number of participants your video and microphone have been disabled.
- Please use the **Chat function** to introduce yourself or to report any technical issues.
- Please use the **Q&A function** to post your questions and comments. You may do so anonymously.



# Panel and agenda

## *Welcome from chair and Pre-event poll*

**Professor Trudie Lang** - Professor of Global Health Research; Director of The Global Health Network (TGHN), University of Oxford, UK

## *Introduction to the Pathfinder concept*

**Aashna Uppal** - DPhil Student, The Global Health Network, Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, UK

## *Case study from LAC: Pathfinder Birth in Brazil II and Pathfinder Vacina Maré*

**Dr. Larissa Marques** - Data Coordinator of Fiocruz (Rio de Janeiro) at The Global Health Network Latin America & the Caribbean (TGHN LAC)

## *Pathfinder series activities*

**MSc Laís Araujo** - Researcher of Fiocruz (Rio de Janeiro) at The Global Health Network Latin America & the Caribbean (TGHN LAC)

## *Panel discussion and Q&A*

# Pre-event poll

***On a scale of 1 to 5, how familiar are you with the Pathfinder concept?***

*1 - Not at all familiar;*

*2*

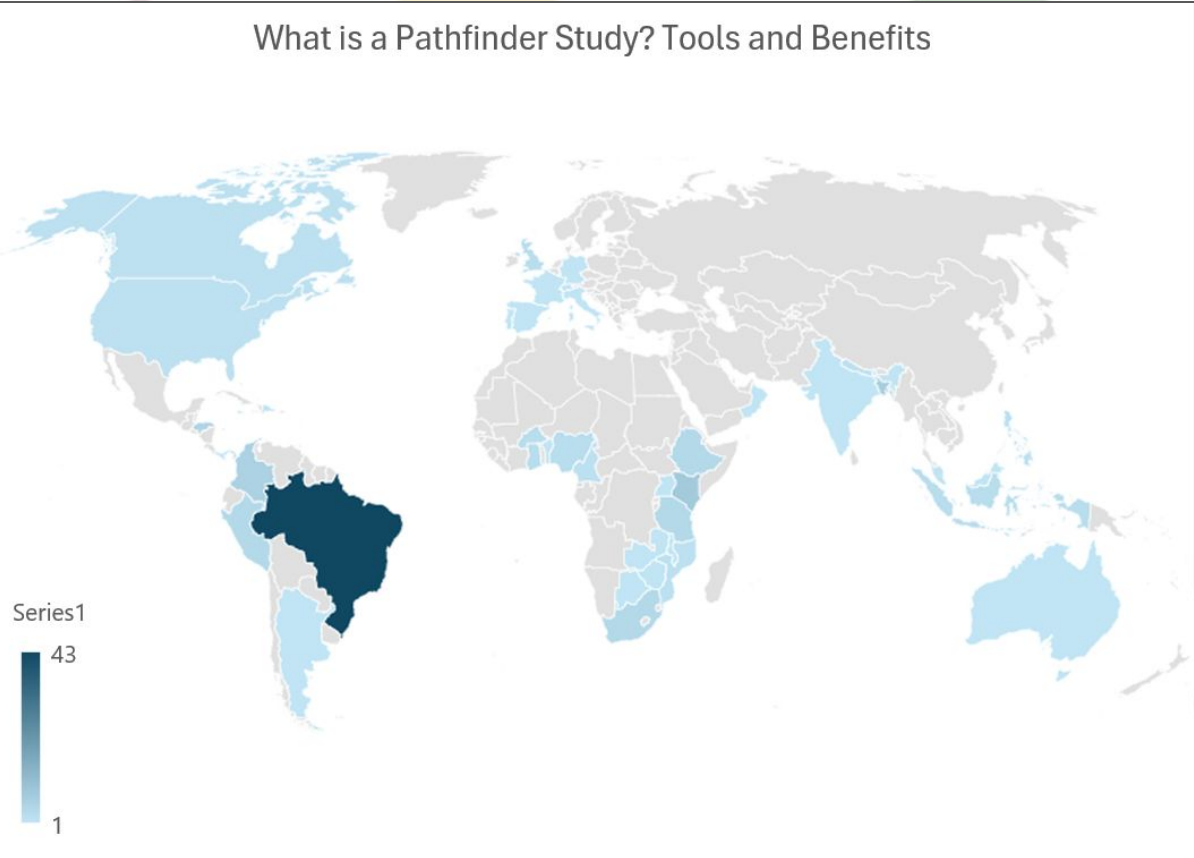
*3*

*4*

*5 - Very familiar.*

# Registered interest in today's webinar

	Country	Count
1	Brazil	43
2	Kenya	8
3	Bangladesh	7
4	Colombia	6
5	Honduras	5
6	Peru	4
7	South Africa	4
8	Tanzania	4
9	Ethiopia	4
10	Burkina Faso	3
11	United Kingdom	3
12	Nigeria	3
13	Ghana	3
14	Indonesia	3
15	United States	2
16	Philippines	2
17	Mozambique	2
18	Cameroon	2
19	Canada	2
20	Nepal	2
	<b>Total</b>	
40		132



 *This presentation will be held in English.*

# Welcome from our chair

**Professor Trudie Lang**

**Director, The Global Health Network,  
University of Oxford, UK**

# The Global Health Network

Equity in where research happens, who leads & who benefits

Health research methods are evolving fast – **new approaches should benefit everyone, everywhere**

Too few studies are undertaken in the Global South – the 90:10 Gap persists



Of those, too few are led by local researchers and are not tackling local priorities



Old norms of capacity building focus on one disease, product or protocol



A trusted facility used by researchers and research organisations for mobilizing knowledge and delivering capacity and abilities to teams over the long-term in the workplace ; Enabling research where evidence is lacking

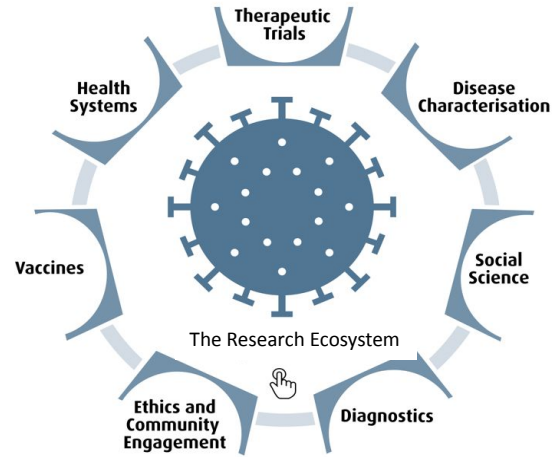


A WHO collaborating Centre for research information sharing and capacity development









**The Health Research Ecosystem** - *The whole set of evidence vital to understand, treat, prevent and manage any disease*

**The Health Research Cycle** - *The required steps and processes for all studies – that don't vary between diseases*

**Learning-by-doing generates evidence to tackle local priority health burdens & creates active abilities in place to spot and stop a new outbreak.**

The Global Health Network does this at scale by active knowledge sharing and supporting teams

Used by organisations such as WHO, CEPI, IDRC, EDCTP and Wellcome  
To reach the research community and deliver systematic methods and research system strengthening



# Sharing expertise through **joined up** tools, resources, webinars, workshops, training & career development

**Welcome to the Global Health Training Centre**

**Online training**  
Free elearning courses in global health research for staff of all roles, in all regions and covering all disease areas, developed by the Global Health Network in collaboration with respected partners such as the World Health Organization

**Webinars**  
Online workshops and seminars in global health research, spanning research disciplines, regions, and therapeutic areas, aiming to foster collaboration, facilitate discussion, and celebrate advances and achievements towards faster and better research for health

**Professional development**  
Build your professional profile, create your CV and track your career in global health research as it develops. This flexible framework covers all the competencies that should be demonstrated by a research team to carry out a successful study

### Essential Research Skills Training Curriculum

This study was developed as a collaboration between the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (SPRTD) and the Global Health Network (GHN).

**Developing an Evidence-led Essential Research Skills Training Curriculum Delphi Study**

**Stage 1: Knowledge Gap Analysis**

**Stage 2: Pilot questionnaire**

**Stage 3: Mapping**

### Good Clinical Laboratory Practice

**Research Ethics Online Training**

**Introduction to Clinical Research 7 module**  
An overview of the basic concepts of clinical research, focusing on the main areas of why and how clinical research is carried out, the importance of ethics in research, and an outline of the five main clinical study designs.

English | Español | Français | Portuguese | Swahili | Wili | 中文

RESEARCH PROCESSES & METHODS | SOCIAL SCIENCE, ETHICS & COMMUNITIES  
| INFECTION, IMMUNITY & RESISTANCE | WOMEN & CHILD HEALTH

### Workshops

Workshops are a valuable and engaging way to learn, providing a fantastic opportunity for collective training sessions, skills transfer, networking and information sharing.

**AFRICA**

- Research in Global Health Emergencies
- Research Ethics during Epidemics
- Laboratory Quality Control
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Introduction to Scientific Writing
- Laboratory Quality Control
- Nigeria Workshop 2021
- Treatment protocols and approaches to new infectious diseases
- Implementation of novel diagnostics
- Improving clinical trial conduct in Africa

**GLOBAL**

### OSITI

- Migrant Communities and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Ethical considerations
- Richard T. Johnson Lecture | Neurologic morbidities from pediatric cerebral malaria - Looking Beyond the Body Count
- Indigenous communities, 'vulnerability', and the COVID-19 pandemic
- Introduction to Research for nurses and midwives
- Global Brain Health Clinical Exchange Platform - Critical Care of the Neurologic System in COVID-19
- Communicating Science to Facilitate the Uptake of Research Findings into Policy and Practice



100,000 people taken courses

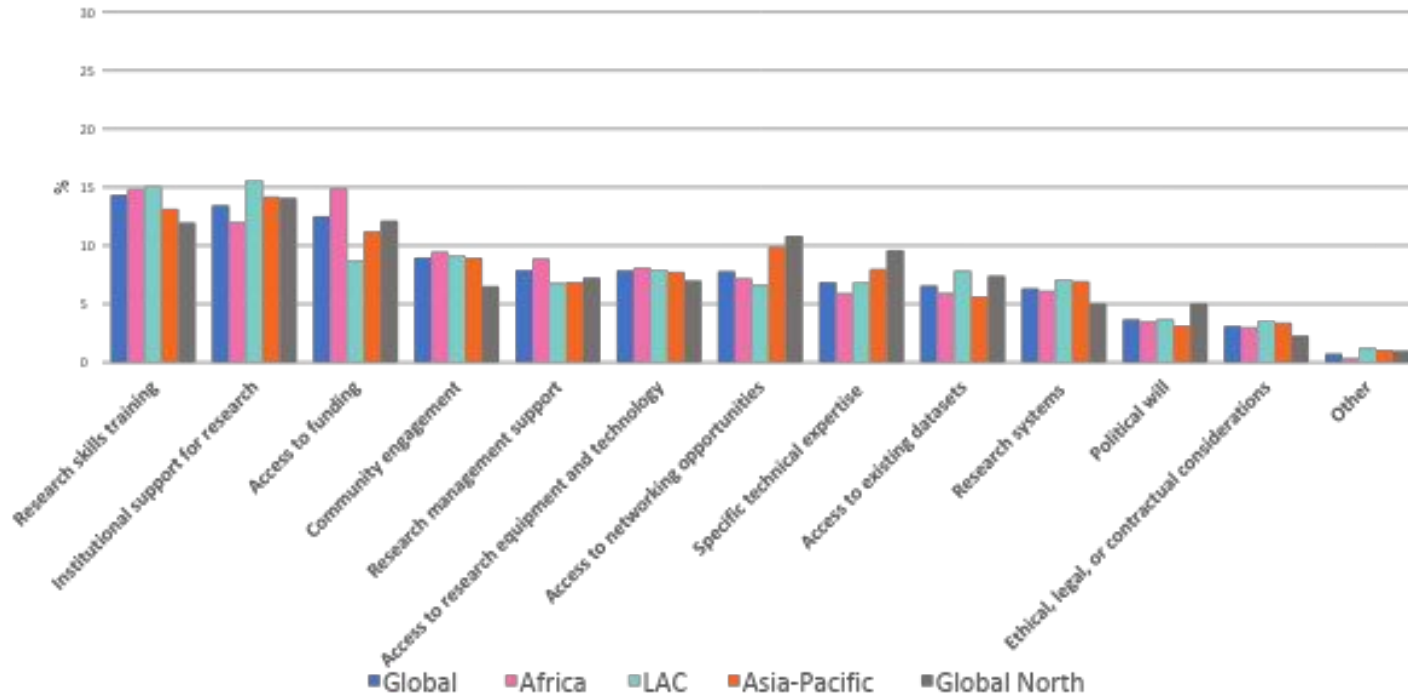
**Care competencies**

100% completion for various modules including Ethics, Quality & Risk Management, and Research Operations.

- Many different collaborators
- Open access, globally applicable
- Peer reviewed, regularly updated
- Certificate issued > 80% in quizzes

# Data from 6,000 researchers and health workers in two studies – asked about the barriers to leading health research studies

The barriers don't differ by disease, region or type of research. This is the good news, these cross-cutting gaps are solvable – at scale.





# Delivers long-term learning, resources and career impact journeys, like this....

Research skills and outputs



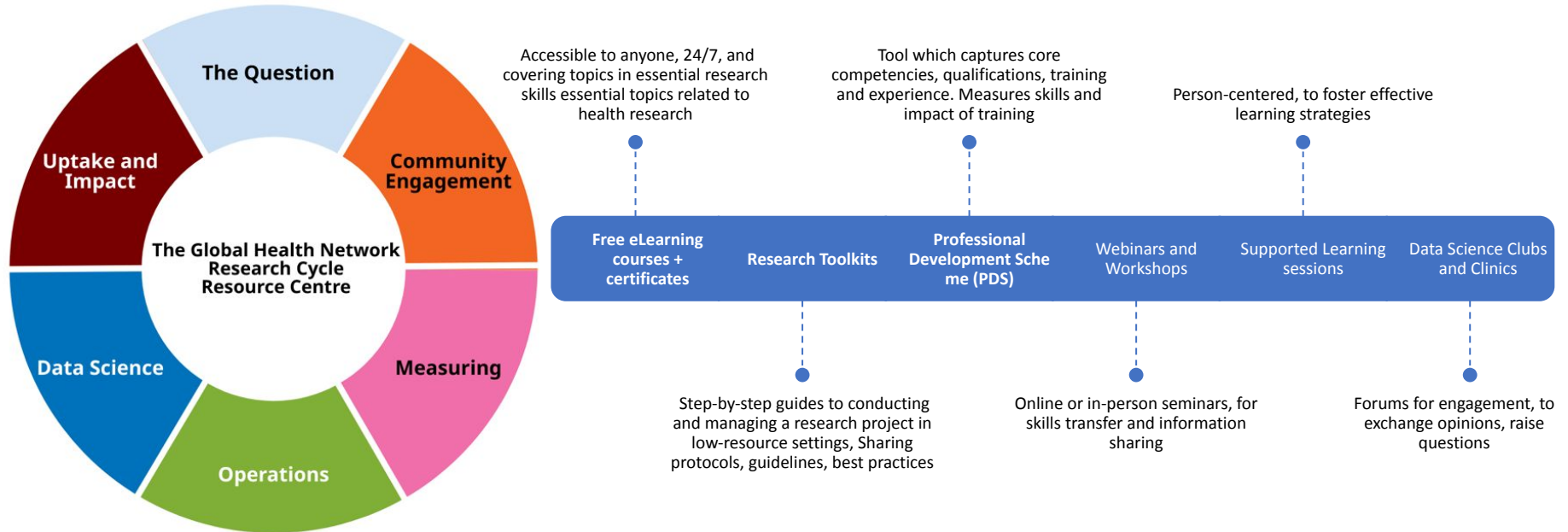
Regional in-person Capacity & Skills Sharing Activities



Metric	
Online courses taken	4.5M
Visits to the platform	Over 40M
In-person events attended	Over 5,000
Resources downloaded	Over 3M
Attended a webinar	Over 25,000

Time

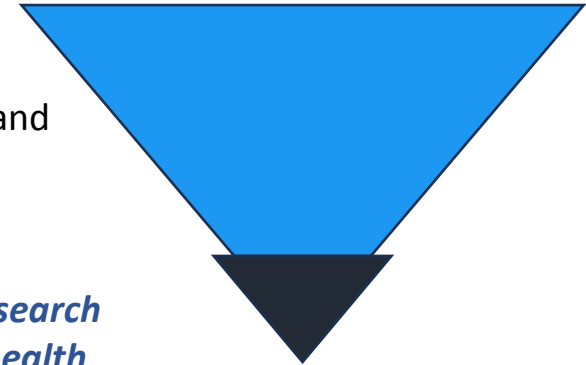
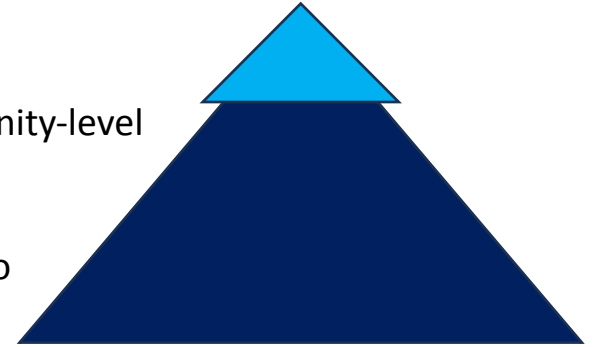
# Access to Resources and Training – discovering what they didn't know





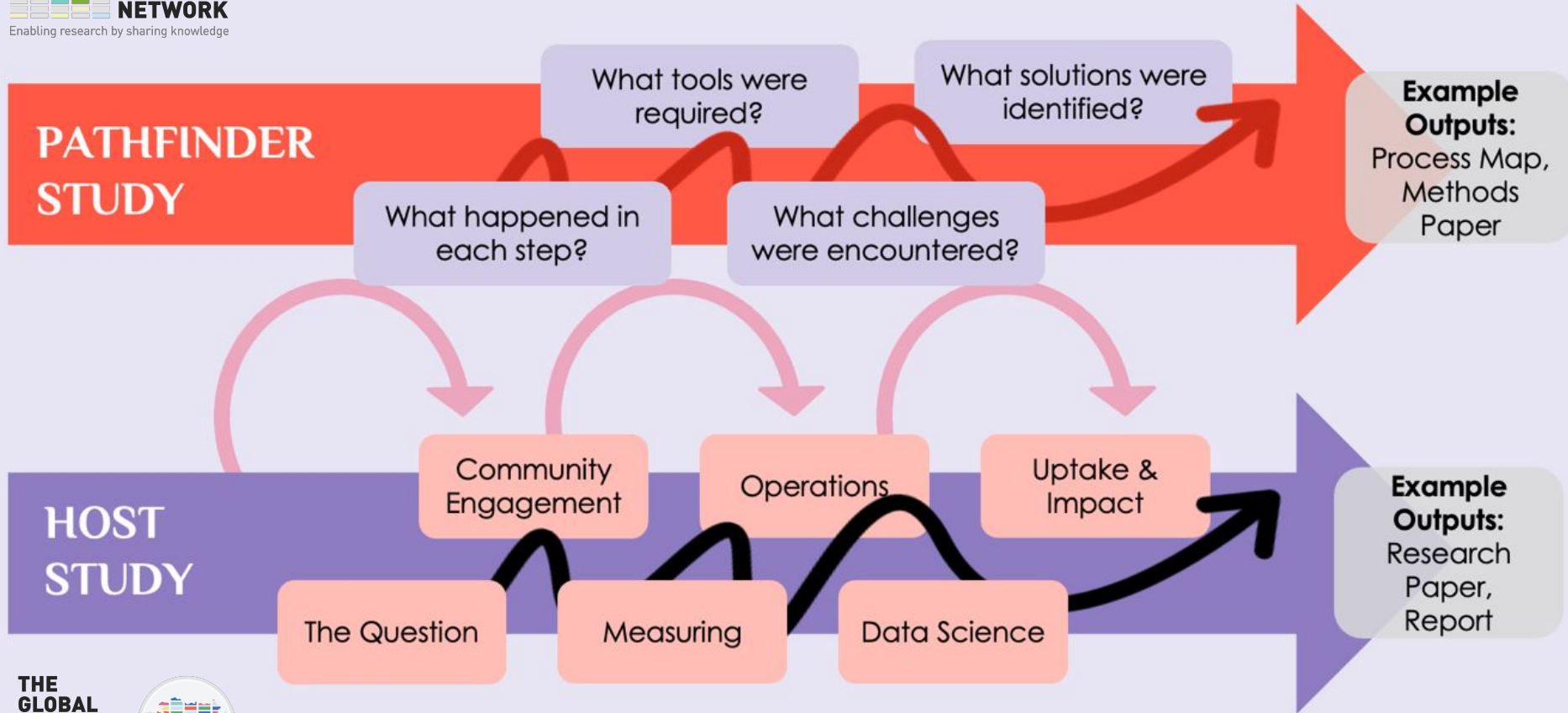
## Flipping the Research Pyramid

- Shifting focus from elite, top-level research units to grassroots, community-level professionals.
- Building capabilities and leadership among local healthcare providers to conduct research.
- Moving away from reliance on a small number of specialized units, often led by foreign experts.
- Prioritizing research on diseases and health challenges that are most relevant to local communities.
- Enhancing the ability of local health systems to respond to emergencies and pandemics.



***This approach emphasizes the power and potential at the base of the research pyramid, where local professionals are directly involved in addressing health challenges.***

# Pathfinder Studies



 *This presentation will be held in English.*

# Introduction to the Pathfinder concept

**Aashna Uppal**

**DPhil Student, The Global Health Network, Centre for  
Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nuffield  
Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, UK**

# Introduction

## The problem that we're trying to address

The roots of global health research – particularly data-driven research – have been planted by wealthier nations, and have influenced how it is structured in institutions, globally.

**This means there is inequity both in the undertaking of new studies to generate primary data, and in the application of data science skills to ask new questions of secondary data.**

# Introduction

## The problem that we're trying to address

Key barriers to high quality research being undertaken in and led by low-resource settings are well reported.

These known barriers include **limited access to cutting-edge research methods and technology**, as well as the skills to apply them.

# The Pathfinder Methodology

## Process mapping how data-driven health research is done

This “Pathfinder” methodology is undertaken alongside planned studies to **guide teams through each key step of their research.**

Pathfinders can also be applied to studies that have already been completed, **capturing best practices** so that others can learn from these examples.

The premise is that solutions to most design-related, operational and reporting challenges in research already exist.



## PATHFINDER STUDY

What tools were required?

What solutions were identified?

What happened in each step?

What challenges were encountered?

**Example Outputs:**  
Process Map,  
Methods Paper

## HOST STUDY

Community Engagement

Operations

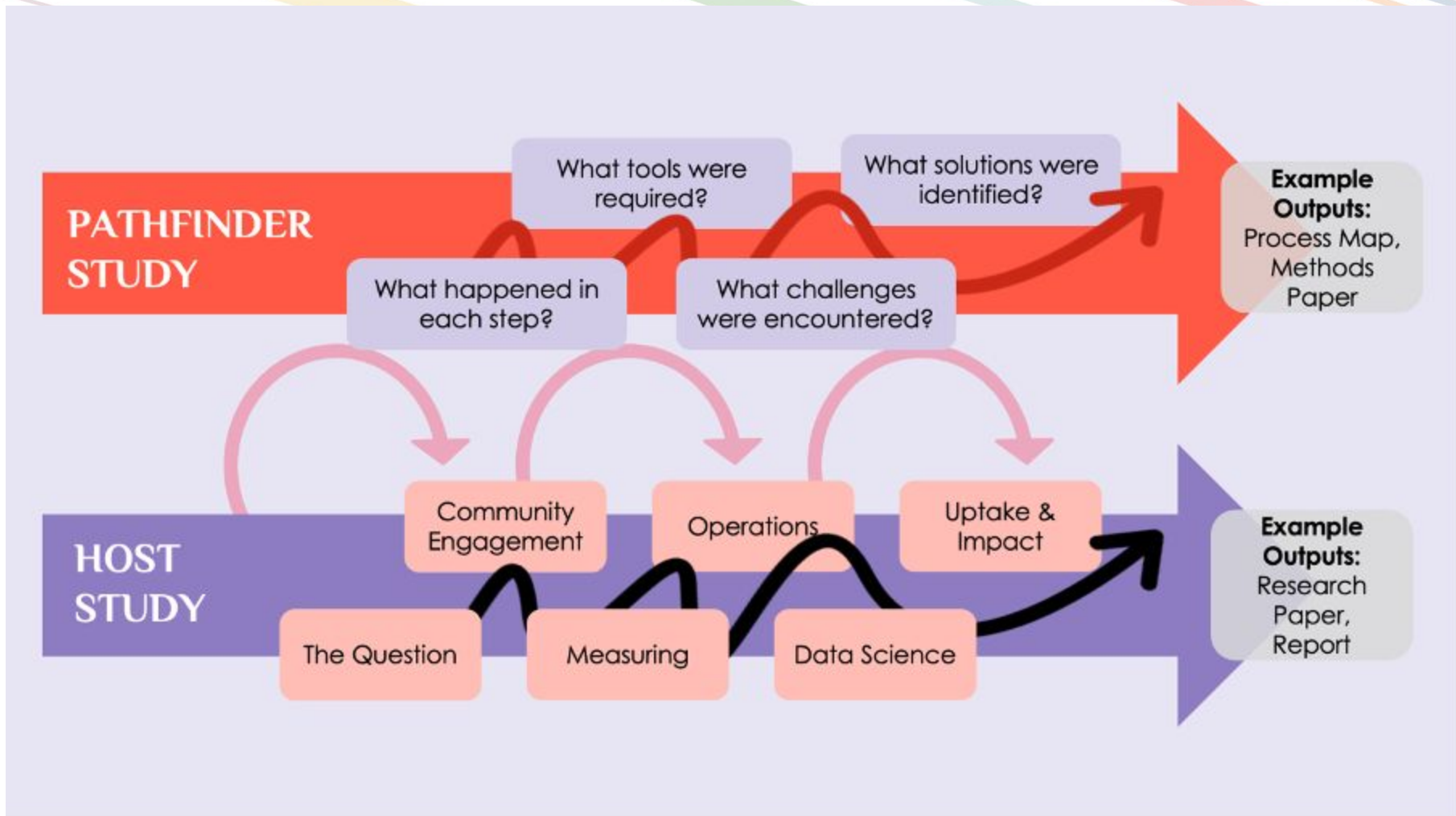
Uptake & Impact

The Question

Measuring

Data Science

**Example Outputs:**  
Research Paper,  
Report



# The Pathfinder Methodology

## Primary vs. secondary data

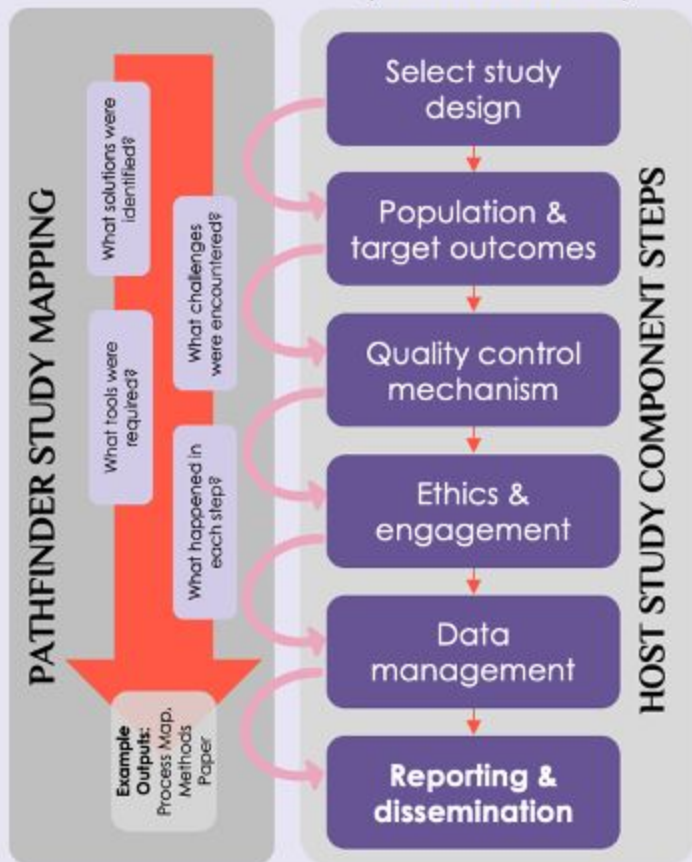
Host studies may ask new questions of existing data (secondary data), or secondly, host studies may generate new information (primary data).

Pathfinder Studies that are mapping the process of asking new questions of existing data may focus more on **data governance, infrastructure, and standards.**

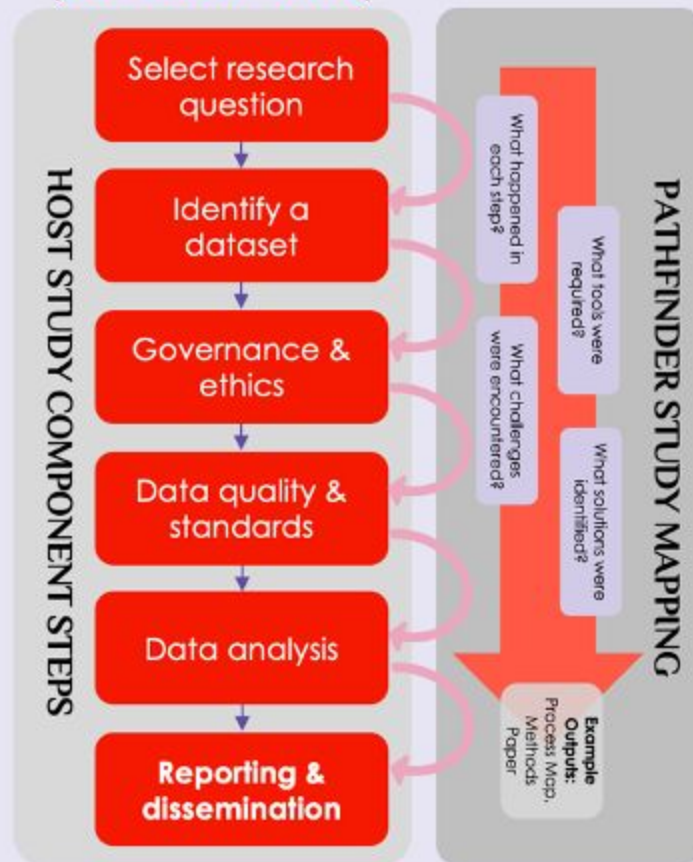
Pathfinder Studies that are mapping the process of generating primary data may focus more on **defining target exposures and outcomes** for which data will be collected.

...generating new information  
(PRIMARY DATA)

...asking new questions of existing data  
(SECONDARY DATA)



The host study is...



# The Pathfinder Methodology

## Capturing the process

As the host study team undertakes their study processes, a **Pathfinder Study matrix** captures and tracks the metrics and on what activities took place to complete each step and, through qualitative methods, determine where challenges arose, as well as solutions to those challenges.

As more Pathfinder Studies are undertaken, through iterative learning-by-doing, and identifying when a roadblock is met, the host study teams can be supported to identify a solution.

	Description	Metrics: time, resources, costs	Outcomes, challenges, solutions, tools	Links to resources and training
Research Planning				
Data Management & Access				
Data Analysis				
Outputs & Impact				
Stakeholder Engagement				

**ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION:**  
communicating and improving while doing

## Iterative Pathfinder Process

**Data Reuse**

Consider additional research that could be done with the data

**Host Study Planning**

Identify a host study and identify host and Pathfinder teams

**After the Study**

Communicate findings of Pathfinder study and host study, where applicable, and share data

**Mapping Host Study**

Track and record metrics of the host study

**Host Study Identifies Barrier**

Support sought and solution identified



# Acknowledgements

Thank you to key individuals behind this idea!

Frank Kagoro  
Luciana Monteiro-Krebs  
Flavia Thedim Costa Bueno  
Larissa Pruner Marques  
Sofonias Kifle Tessema  
John Amuasi  
Matthew Retford  
Bonny Baker  
Mercedes Rumi  
Aliya Naheed  
Elvis Temfack  
Cristiani Vieira Machado  
Agklinta Kiosia  
Trudie Lang



*This presentation will be held in Portuguese.*

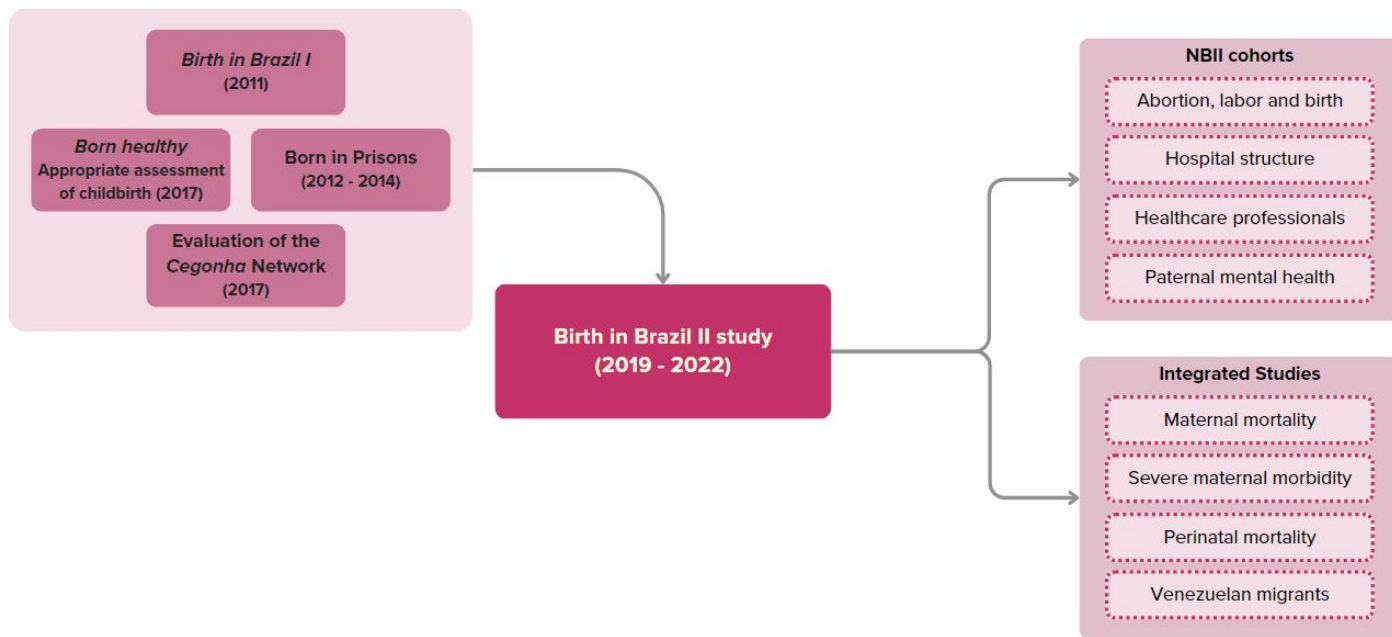
# **Case study from LAC: Pathfinder Birth in Brazil II and Pathfinder Vacina Maré**

**Larissa Pruner Marques**

**Data Coordinator of Fiocruz (Rio de Janeiro) at  
The Global Health Network Latin America & the  
Caribbean (TGHN LAC)**

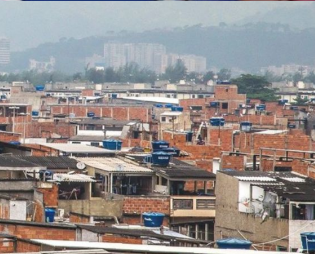


## BIRTH BRAZIL II

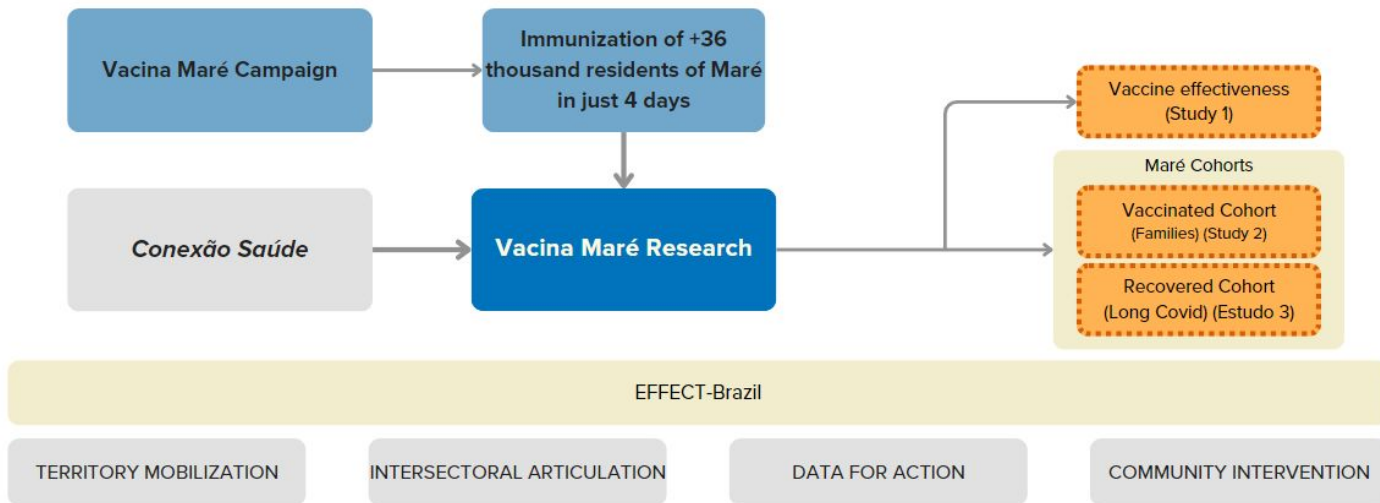


Research Group on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health - Sérgio Arouca National School of Public Health (ENSP/Fiocruz)

<https://nascernobrasil.ensp.fiocruz.br/>



# VACINA MARÉ



<https://www.vacinamare.org.br/>

Realização  
Organization

redesmaré

Rio  
PREFEITURA SAÚDE

Ministério da Saúde  
FIOCRUZ  
Fundação Oswaldo Cruz

SUS

Parceria  
Partnership

PUC

ISGlobal  
Barcelona  
Institute for  
Global Health

Apoio  
Support

HDRUK  
Health Data Research UK  
ICODA  
Instituto de Ciência e Inovação em Saúde

W  
wellcome

UKaid

Instituto  
Todos  
por  
Saúde

FAPERJ  
Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

# Pathfinder study: methodology

Initial steps

Documental  
Analysis

Roundtable  
Discussion

Interviews

- |  |  |   |                   |
|--|--|---|-------------------|
| ★ Host study selection                                   | ★ Website  | ★ Script with main axes: skills and tools, challenges and solutions | ★ Semi structured |
| ★ Pathfinder presentation                                | ★ Articles                                       | ★ Workshop  | ★ 10 key actors   |
| ★ Referee researchers selection                          | ★ Reports  | ★ 7 Roundtables (n=24)  |                   |
| ★ Term of reference (outputs, outcomes and work process) | ★ Project proposal submitted to ethics committee |   |                   |



# Pathfinder study: outputs

## Challenges, solutions and learnings

Pathfinder

### BIRTH IN BRAZIL II

Challenges, solutions and learnings



The **Pathfinder**, a study based on a research project, employs a methodological approach to map key stages and indicators, helping to identify obstacles and solutions, as well as capturing and sharing the tools and methods used by the project.

The “Nascer no Brasil II” (Birth in Brazil II) study, a continuation of the national study Nascer no Brasil, was chosen as Pathfinder due to its continued existence as a successful research project that has significantly contributed to the improvement of public policies, legislation and care practices in reproductive health of women and newborns. The mapping enabled challenges and solutions to be identified, resulting in valuable lessons that can be applied to other projects.



#### **PATHFINDER: DATA-DRIVEN PROCESS MAPPING FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN RESEARCH**

**Pathfinder** is a study based on a research project (called a host study) that uses a methodological approach based on process mapping of research cycles contributing to other projects, especially those built in research environments with few resources, can be nourished with tools, solutions and lessons learned from exemplary studies.

PATHFINDER BRIEF

## VACINA MARÉ

CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

**Pathfinder**, a study based on a research project, uses a methodological approach that maps key stages and indicators, supports the identification of obstacles and solutions, and captures and shares tools and methods adopted by the project. The Vacina Maré Research was selected for **Pathfinder** as a successful example, with significant impacts on collective health and the community, as well as addressing community and scientific issues collaboratively. Mapping the research allowed challenges and solutions to be identified, with valuable lessons for other projects as well.



#### **1. PATHFINDER: DATA-DRIVEN PROCESS MAPPING FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN RESEARCH**

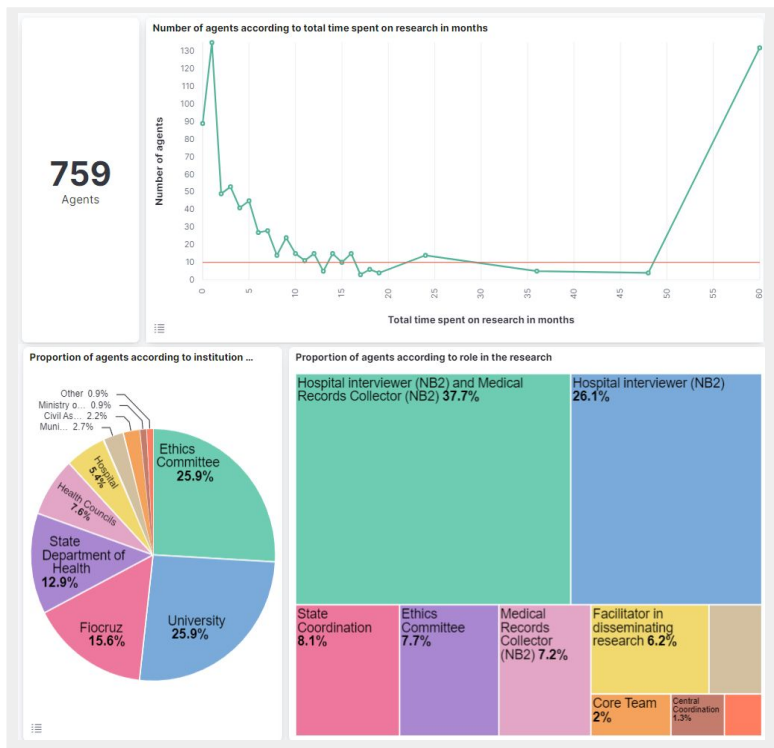
**Pathfinder** is a study based on a research project (called a host study) that uses a methodological approach based on processes mapping of research cycles, helping other projects, especially those built in under-resourced research environments, to draw tools, solutions and lessons learnt from exemplary studies. **Pathfinder's** objectives involve:



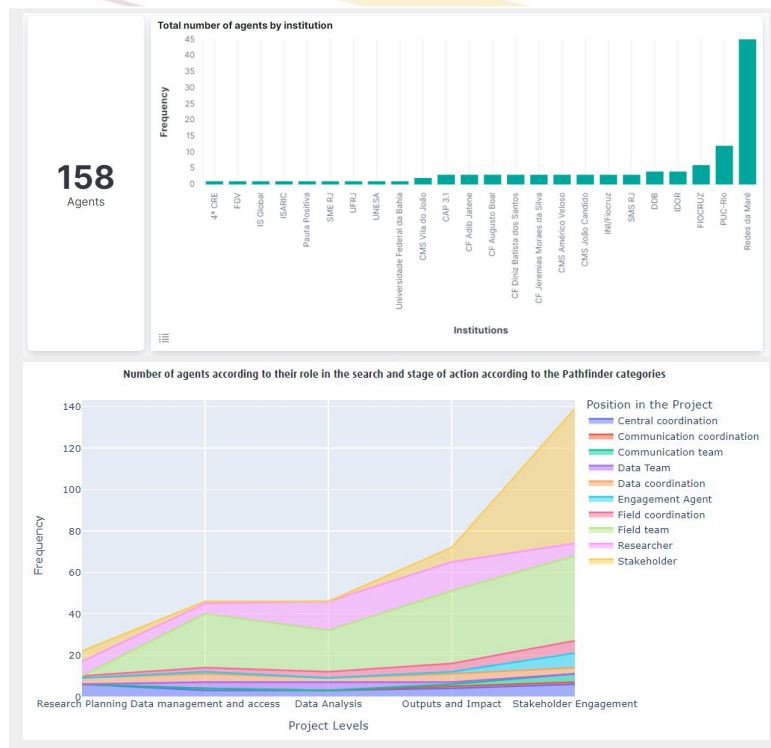
# Pathfinder study: outputs

## Dashboard

### Birth in Brazil II



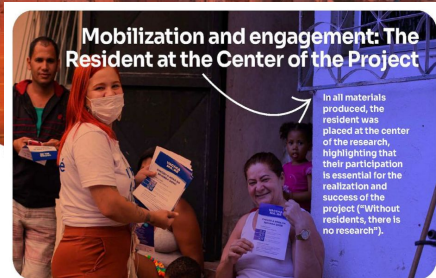
### Vacina Maré



# Pathfinder study: outputs

## Toolkits

### Favelas and science: how to do research in peripheral territories



PESQUISA  
VACINA  
MATER

In all materials produced, the resident was placed at the center of the research, highlighting that their participation is essential for the realization and success of the project ("Without residents, there is no research").

### Developing a dashboard to visualize agents and stakeholders



- HOME
- 1. PATHFINDER PROJECTS
- 1.1. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
- 2. THE DASHBOARD
- 2.1. TOOLS AND SKILLS
- 3. ESTABLISHING OBJECTIVES
- 3.1. DEFINING VARIABLES
- 4. STEP-BY-STEP
- 5. OUTCOMES



This toolkit aims to demonstrate the steps, materials and information needed to create a **personalised dashboard** that displays relevant information about the **agents and stakeholders involved in a study**.

Strategies for selecting the information to be displayed, possible platforms for presenting the data and options for customising the dashboard layout will be presented. This will make the dashboard development process more efficient, helping teams to deepen their understanding of the agents involved and their role and relevance in conducting a study.

What will I find in the toolkit?

### Qualitative methodology for Pathfinder - Tracker

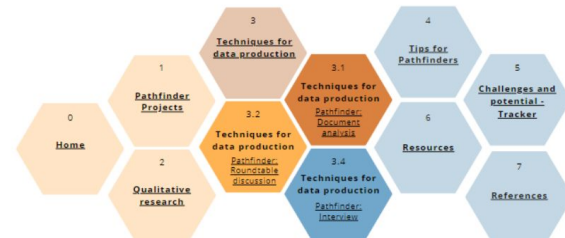


- HOME
- 1. PATHFINDER PROJECTS
- 2. QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
- 3. TECHNIQUES
- 3.1. DOCUMENT ANALYSIS
- 3.2. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
- 3.3. INTERVIEW
- 4. TIPS
- 5. CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL
- 6. RESOURCES
- 7. REFERENCES



**Pathfinder** Pathfinder is an "add-on" study to a research project (host study) that uses a methodological strategy to map essential steps and fundamental indicators to help detect challenges and solutions. Additionally, it facilitates the capture and sharing of tools and techniques employed in the host study.

The purpose of this toolkit is to present how **qualitative research** can contribute to **mapping** the stages of the host study, in the most reliable way possible. In this way, we will present some qualitative research techniques and how they can be used in the Pathfinder methodology.



How are things done here? What can I learn?

What is the purpose of my work in this community?

Who am I proposing to do it for?

Am I welcome here?

Does my communication style align with local knowledge and practices?

What is the impact of this research on this territory?

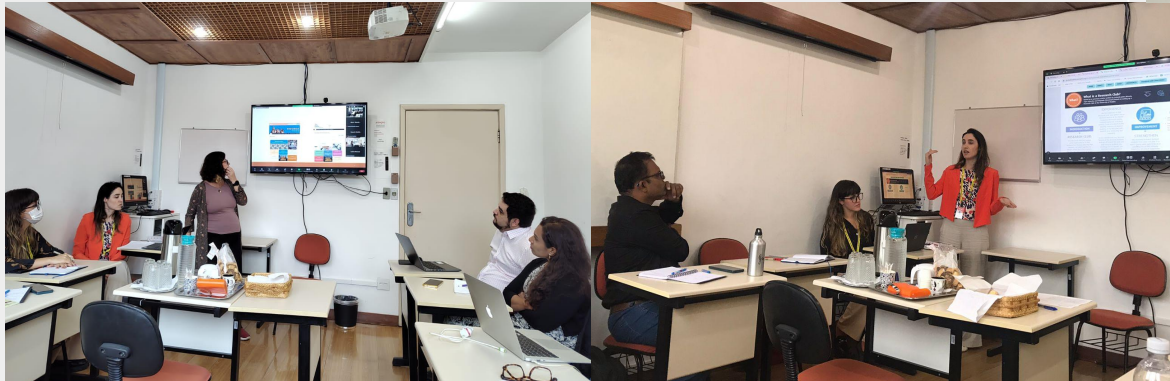
What partnerships do I need to establish to operate in this territory?

When arriving in a slum and neighborhoods, it is essential to learn to people and respect local ways of being, doing and living. In this way, initial and research questions should be posed.

# Pathfinder study: outputs

## Workshops

- ★ Tools for fostering engagement and mobilisation in public health (Brasil, India and Malaysia) (oct 2023)
- ★ Pathfinder Tracker: qualitative methodology (july 2023)





# Pathfinder study: outputs

## Webinars

**WEBINAR**

# Getting started with R for Health Data Science

25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023, 8:00 (Rio de Janeiro), 12:00 (London),  
13:00 (Cape Town), 17:00 (Dhaka)

**REGISTER**



Ministério da Saúde  
FIOCRUZ  
Fundação Oswaldo Cruz

HDRGlobal  
Health Data Research



**WEBINAR**

Simultaneous translation  
into ENG-SPA-PT

# The use of REDCap beyond surveys and typical databases: *Efficiency in research*

Dec 14 2023, 13:00 GMT / 10:00 GMT-3 (BR/AR)

**REGISTER**



Ministério da Saúde  
FIOCRUZ  
Fundação Oswaldo Cruz



THE  
GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK  
Enabling research by sharing knowledge



# Pathfinder Projects

PORTUGUÊS

ESPAÑOL

The **Pathfinder projects** are associated with host studies and investigations into public health challenges. They use an organized and critical approach to process mapping research cycles, identifying obstacles faced by the host study, such as those related to skills gaps, technological infrastructure, systems and data tools. Therefore, they seek to help identify solutions to overcome these obstacles, expand the capabilities of the agents involved and boost scientific production and collaboration.

- **About Pathfinder Projects**
- **The Pathfinder global community**
- **Pathfinder resources**

## Discover the Pathfinder Projects of the Fiocruz Hub



Vacina Maré Pathfinder



Birth in Brazil II Pathfinder

<https://lac.tghn.org/proyectos-pathfinder/>

# Final considerations

The moments promoted by Pathfinder for mapping the research through document analysis, roundtables and interviews triggered a process of **individual and collective evaluation** among the host study team members, **recognising the complexity** of the host studies, but also realising the **great effort** and **accomplishments**.

The lessons learnt can **guide** similar future research, highlighting the importance of careful planning, flexibility in implementation, and the search for sensitive and effective approaches.

In addition to the great reflection provided by Pathfinder, other resources have been produced, not only for the team, but also for developing **research capacities for other studies**.



**Pathfinder Team:**

Ana Paula Esteves-Pereira  
Claudio Heizer  
Laís Martins Costa Araujo  
Soraida Aguilar  
Luciana Monteiro-Krebs  
Larissa Pruner Marques  
Flávia T. Costa Bueno

**Fiocruz - TGHN LAC:**

Letícia Marinho  
Luisa Picanço  
Vitor Villaça  
Vanessa Arruda Jorge  
Cristiani Vieira Machado

**Birth in Brazil II:**

Maria do Carmo Leal  
Silvana Granado  
Sônia Bittencourt  
Mariza Theme  
Rosa Domingues  
Marcos Nakamura  
Maíra Takemoto  
Danielle Portella  
Elaine Viellas  
Ana Paula Esteves  
Bárbara Ayres  
Márcia Baldisserotto  
Thaiza Carvalho  
Alessandra Bernardo  
Paulo Blengini  
Karina Caetano

**Birth in Brazil II:**

Paulo Frias  
Fernanda Abbud  
Manuela Velho

**Vacina Maré Team:**

Fernando Bozza  
Luna Arouca  
Everton Pereira  
Carolina Dias  
Luciana Bento  
Henrique Gomes  
Diana Souza  
Grazielle Viana  
Amanda Batista  
Leonardo Bastos  
Silvio Hamacher  
Thiago Wendel

 *This presentation will be held in Portuguese.*

# Pathfinder series activities

**Laís Araujo**

Researcher of Fiocruz (Rio de Janeiro) at  
The Global Health Network Latin America & the  
Caribbean (TGHN LAC)



# Pathfinder series activities

1

Webinar - August 2024

What is a Pathfinder Study?  
Tools and Benefits

2

Workshop I - Late August 2024

Tailoring the Pathfinder concept  
How to begin?

3

Workshop II

Pathfinder tools – how to use?

4

Workshop III

Identifying resources from  
Pathfinder Studies

Pathfinder Clinic

To support and promote collaborate environment among interested centers throughout Pathfinders

# **Workshop I**

**Pathfinder:  
how to begin?**



**Sign up  
here!**

# Guided panel discussion and Q&A

THE  
GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK  
LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARRIBEAN



THE  
GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK  
ASIA



# Thank you.

THE  
GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK  
LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARRIBEAN



THE  
GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK  
ASIA

