Implementation Research Capacity Building in the Southeast Asian and Western Pacific Region

Yodi Mahendradhata

Practice

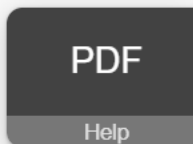# Developing a framework of core competencies in implementation research for low/middle-income countries

Olakunle Alonge[1], Aditi Rao[1], Anna Kalbarczyk[1], Dermot Maher[2], Edwin Rolando Gonzalez Marulanda[3], Malabika Sarker[4,5], Latifat Ibisomi[6,7], Phyllis Dako-Gyeke[8], Yodi Mahendradhata[9], Pascal Launois[2], Mahnaz Vahedi[2]

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Abstract

The field of implementation research (IR) is growing. However, there are no recognised IR core competencies in low/middle-income countries (LMICs), nor consistent curriculum across IR training programs globally. The goal of this effort is to develop a framework of IR core competencies for training programs in LMICs. The framework was developed using a mixed-methods approach consisting of two online surveys with IR training coordinators (n = 16) and academics (n = 89) affiliated with seven LMIC institutions, and a modified-Delphi process to evaluate the domains, competencies and proficiency levels included in the framework. The final framework comprised of 11 domains, 59 competencies and 52 sub-competencies, and emphasised competencies for modifying contexts, strengthening health systems, addressing ethical concerns, engaging stakeholders and communication especially for LMIC settings, in addition to competencies on IR theories, methods and designs. The framework

Circles of knowledge and skills relevant for implementation research education and training programme.

Olakunle Alonge et al. BMJ Glob Health 2019;4:e001747

Postgraduate training scheme: Building the capacity of the next generation of researchers and global health leaders

‹ **Strengthening research capacity**

Postgraduate training scheme

Regional training centres

Clinical research and development fellowship

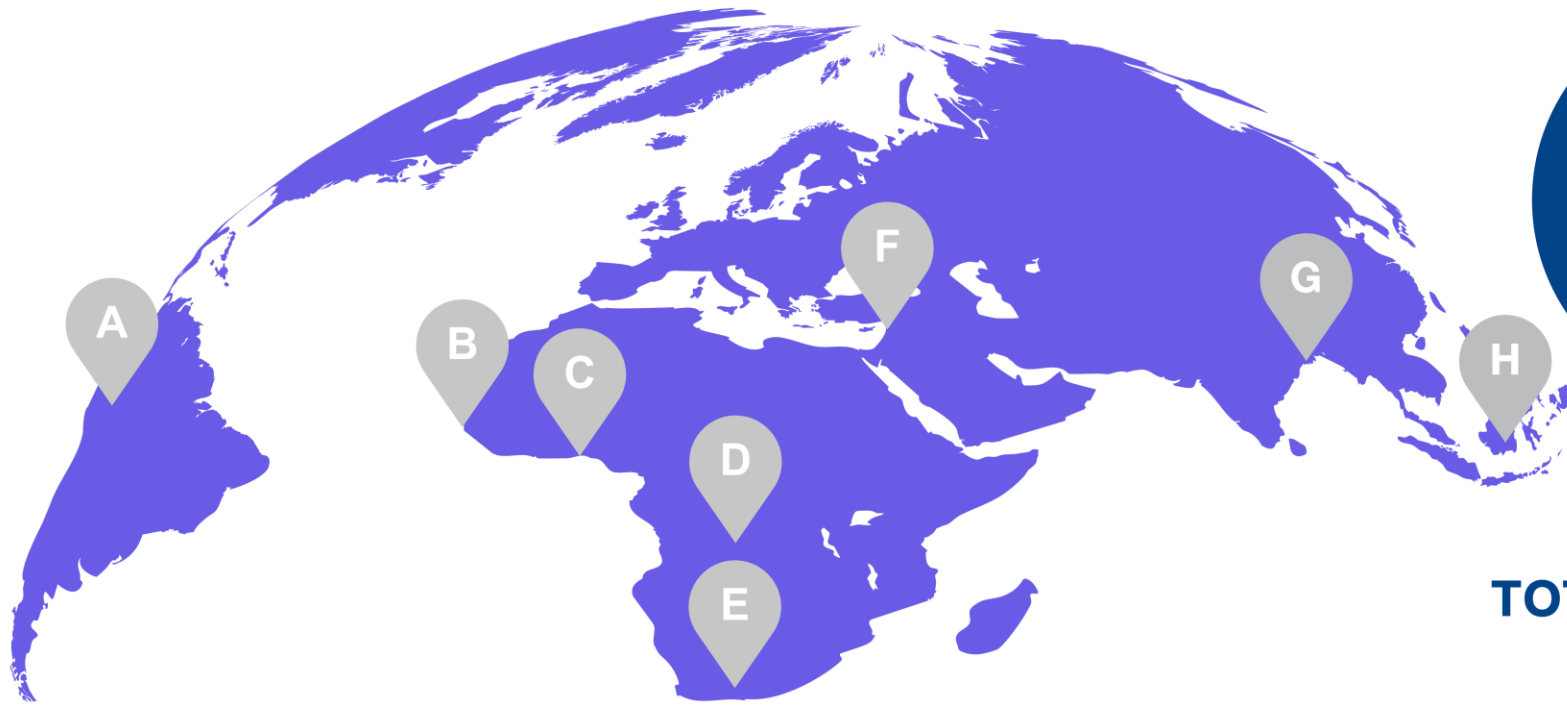Massive open online course (MOOC) on implementation research

As part of TDR's efforts to increase the capacity of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to undertake a leadership role in research on the control of infectious diseases of poverty, we provide training grants with a focus on implementation research. Support for postgraduate training is a TDR core area of work. Fellows generally go on to establish careers in research or public health in LMICs and are now part of the TDR Global network.

In 2015, the TDR postgraduate training scheme evolved from a focus on individuals to a partnership with seven universities in LMICs, selected by an external committee of public health experts. The following universities are partners with TDR in this scheme: James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia; University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana; Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia; American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon; University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; and University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia.

How the scheme works

The scheme provides a full academic scholarship in collaboration with universities in LMICs to train MSc students. The training is specifically focused on subjects or disciplines relevant to implementation research. Items covered by the scholarship include full time tuition and board, cost of dissertation research/field work, return air travel from home country to institution and contribution towards the purchase of essential textbooks/learning materials.
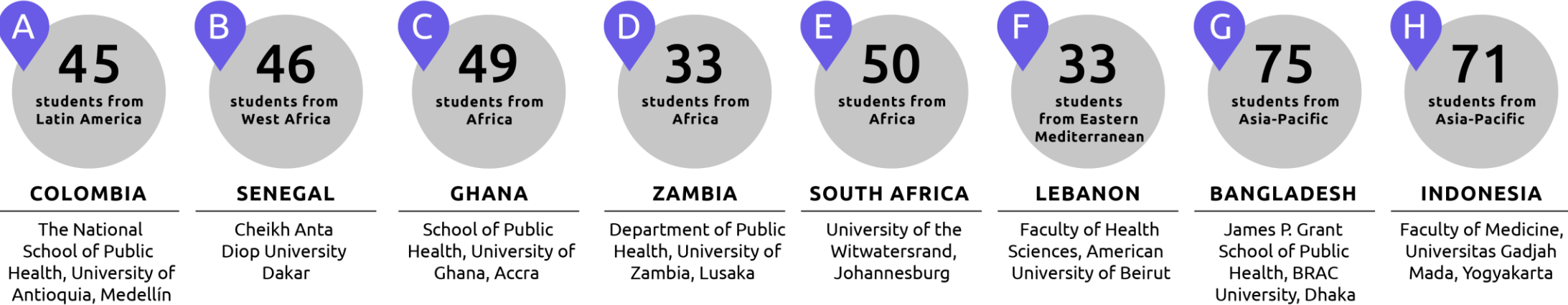
Candidates must apply to institutions in their respective regions (Africa, Asia, Latin America or Middle East) to be eligible for consider

402 MASTER'S STUDENTS TRAINED

TOTAL WORLDWIDE SINCE 2015

NUMBERS OF MASTER'S STUDENTS TRAINED AT PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN THE POSTGRADUATE TRAINING SCHEME

A 45 students from Latin America

COLOMBIA

The National School of Public Health, University of Antioquia, Medellín

B 46 students from West Africa

SENEGAL

Cheikh Anta Diop University Dakar

C 49 students from Africa

GHANA

School of Public Health, University of Ghana, Accra

D 33 students from Africa

ZAMBIA

Department of Public Health, University of Zambia, Lusaka

E 50 students from Africa

SOUTH AFRICA

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

F 33 students from Eastern Mediterranean

LEBANON

Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut

G 75 students from Asia-Pacific

BANGLADESH

James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka

H 71 students from Asia-Pacific

INDONESIA

Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta

TDR Postgraduate Scholarship in Implementation Research

Eight universities provide Masters level degrees that focus on implementation research. Applications need to be submitted to the universities.

Currently, there are no open calls for applications.

Faculty of Medicine, Public Health and Nursing, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) of Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Year 2022/2023
Application deadline: 28 April 2022

Find out more

Call for applications

TDR Postgraduate Scholarship in Implementation Research Academic Year 2022/2023

Deadline for applications: 28 April 2022

DESCRIPTION

Faculty of Medicine, Public Health and Nursing, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) of Yogyakarta, Indonesia, invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for a place in the following full-time postgraduate programme, with a focus on Implementation Research for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Funding for these full scholarships is from TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, based at the World Health Organization in Geneva (TDR Postgraduate training support). Only applicants from low- and middle-income countries of WHO South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regions are eligible.

The training will be focused on courses relevant to a career in implementation research on infectious diseases of

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Rapid fire with
Cheick Oumar Doumbia

News

Latest news

The role of implementation research for pandemic response

TDR news item
8 December 2020

On 27 November 2020, the network of seven universities participating in TDR's Postgraduate Training Scheme organized a panel discussion on the "Importance of implementation research for post-COVID response in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)." Perspectives from seven countries of the Global South were shared on the impact of COVID-19 on their health systems, key implementation challenges in controlling the pandemic and the possible opportunities for young implementation research practitioners to contribute to the effort.

Related links

— Postgraduate Training Scheme
— Strengthening the national health research capacity builds resilience to disease epidemics

Watch the webinar

Panel Discussi...

Strengthening research capacity for implementation to achieve universal health coverage

View brochure

TDR IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH TOOLKIT

This toolkit is designed to help you conduct an implementation research (IR) project through a standard process so that you have high quality results that are reliable. Before you get started, we recommend you read the "How to use this Toolkit" section. It is also advisable to take the TDR Massive Open Online Course on IR for a foundation knowledge of IR.

MOOC

LEARN IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH (IR) ONLINE

This free online course – MOOC – *will introduce you to designing IR projects that make proven health interventions more widely available to people at risk of diseases of poverty.*

Implementation research (IR) helps design strategies or solutions to overcome bottlenecks that prevent proven and innovative public health interventions to reach the people who need them and ensure that these interventions are used in a manner that results in the outcome for which they were intended. Such solutions include how to overcome barriers

5
Modules

6
Weeks

Massive open online course (MOOC) on implementation research: infectious diseases of poverty

‹ **Strengthening research capacity**

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TDR Global profiles

Implementation research (IR) is important for designing strategies or solutions to overcome bottlenecks that prevent proven and innovative public health interventions from reaching the people who need them. This ensure that these interventions are used in a manner that results in the outcome for which they were intended. Such solutions include how to overcome barriers to adoption of drugs, diagnostics or preventive measures that improve health for people at risk of malaria, tuberculosis, NTDs or other infectious diseases. IR can help to ensure that health solutions reach the people who need them and are used in ways that generate intended results.

This course is a step-by-step online training for public health researchers and decision-makers, disease control programme managers, academics and others that focuses on how to design and demonstrate robust IR projects to improve control of infectious diseases of poverty and generate better health outcomes.

Experts guide participants through the core concepts of IR, including modules that address how to:

- Identify the challenges of various health settings.
- Assess the appropriateness of existing disease control strategies.
- Develop new interventions and strategies by working with communities and stakeholders.

2022 MOOC sessions schedule

Start date	Language	Organizer
7 March	French	RTC- French speak countries
29 March	English	RTC SEAR
1 April	Spanish	RTC AMR
4 April	English	RTC AFR
1 May	Arabic	RTC EMR
23 May	Russian	RTC EUR
1 July	English	RTC EMR
5 September	Spanish	RTC AMR
3 October	English	RTC AFR
21 November	Russian	RTC EUR

New session of