

# ALERRT



African coaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training

*PETER HORBY & JOHN AMUASI*

*REACHING OUT*

*20-21 SEPTEMBER 2018*



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ALERRT is part of the EDCTP2 Programme supported by the European Union  
under grant agreement RIA2016E-1612

ALERRT is also supported by the United Kingdom National Institute for Health Research



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## EDCTP Call RIA - 2016 – Epidemics:

Research and clinical management of patients in PRD epidemics in sub-Saharan Africa

- Call for proposals to support the establishment of a multidisciplinary consortium able to provide accelerated evidence for the optimal clinical management of patients and for guiding the public health response to any severe infectious outbreak caused by pathogens within the scope of the EDCTP programme with pandemic potential or that may cause significant damage to health and socio-economics in Africa (including antimicrobial-resistant pathogens)

- A multi-disciplinary consortium building a patient-centred clinical research network to respond to epidemics across sub-Saharan Africa
- ALERRT aims to reduce the public health and socio-economic impact of disease outbreaks in sub-Saharan Africa by building a sustainable clinical and laboratory preparedness and response network.
- Grant agreement signed 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017
- [www.alerrt.global](http://www.alerrt.global)



The African coalition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training (ALERRT) is a multi-disciplinary consortium building a patient-centered clinical research network to respond to epidemics across sub-Saharan Africa



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- Natural history
- Clinical endpoints
- Pathogenesis
- Biological understanding & standards



Bedside science

Scope

Bench science

- Validation studies
- Clinical trials



CEPI | New vaccines for a safer world

21 partner organizations  
from 13 countries (9  
African and 4 European)

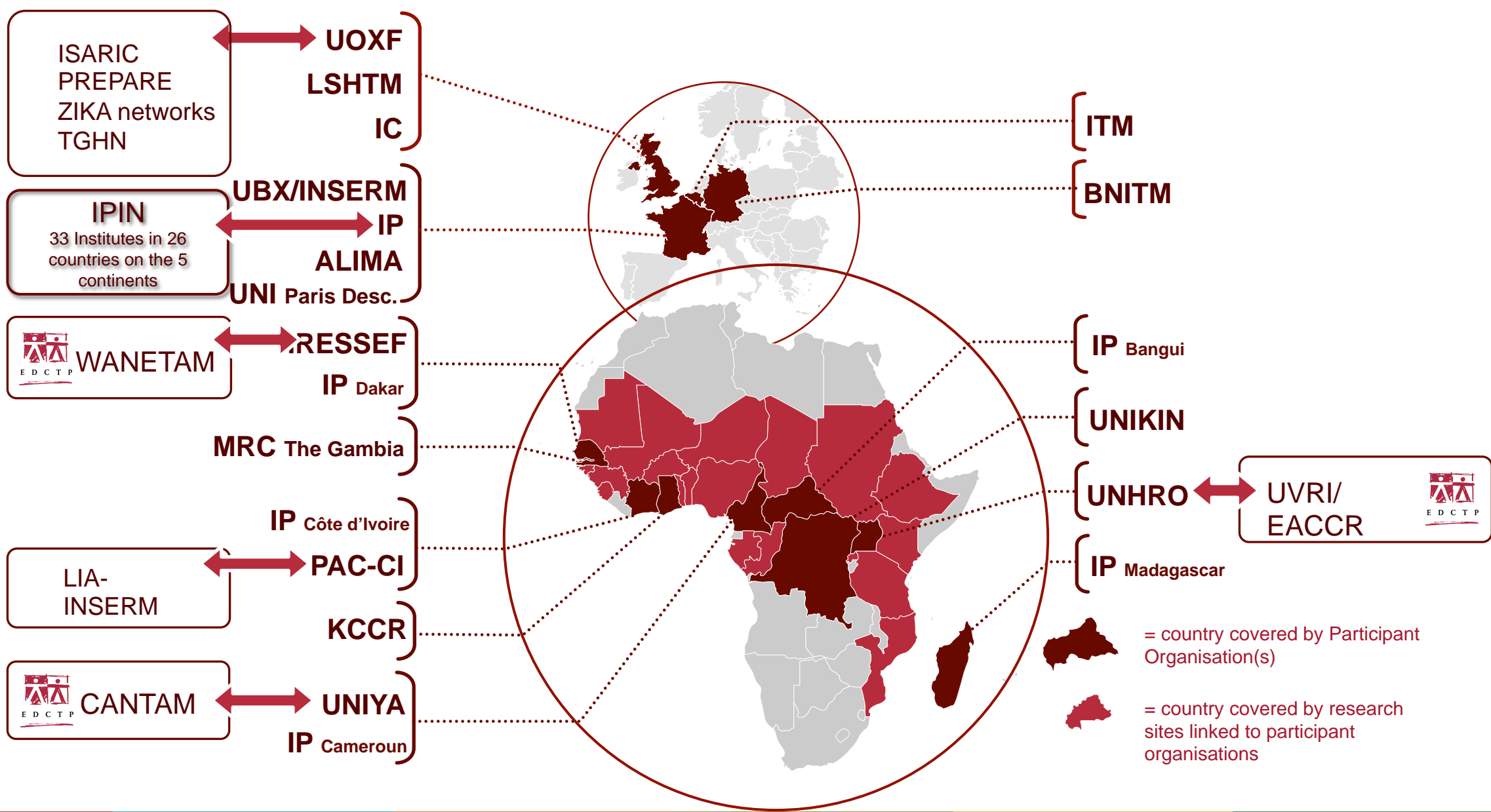


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Objectives		Work-packages
1	To establish a clinical research network that can design and rapidly implement ICH-compliant, high quality, large-scale, multi-site clinical studies in preparation for and response to outbreaks in SSA.	Clinical research platform
2	To establish a laboratory network with the capabilities to provide integrated support to clinical research in preparation for and response to outbreaks in SSA.	Lab research platform
3	To develop and implement a scalable, GCP-compliant, robust data management/ICT infrastructure suitable for resource-poor settings in SSA.	ICT & data management
4	To establish a 'response framework' that alleviates administrative, regulatory and ethical bottlenecks and ensures ALERRT can act swiftly to initiate research.	Operational readiness & resilience
5	To enhance and maintain the operational research capacity of the ALERRT network by developing and implementing a training and capacity development programme.	Training & capacity building
6	To ensure that the actions of the network are relevant to, accepted and supported by local communities and that the results of the networks' efforts have a sustainable impact on health through improved clinical practice and public health policy.	Impact
7	To establish ALERRT as a sustainable SSA network that is linked to international networks and that synergises with, and contributes to, global health-security efforts.	Management & coordination

## Overview

ALERRT (African coALition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training) aims to reduce the public health and socio-economic impact of disease outbreaks in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) by building a sustainable clinical and laboratory research preparedness and response network.

ALERRT consists of 21 partner organisations from 13 countries (9 African and 4 European).

ALERRT has been awarded a five-year, €10,000,000 grant from EDCTP which started on 1 December 2017.

## Objective 1

To establish a clinical research network that can design and rapidly implement ICH-compliant, high quality, large-scale, multi-site clinical studies in preparation for and response to outbreaks in SSA.



Lead WP1:  
Serge Eholie



Co-lead WP1:  
Pontiano Kaleeb

## Objective 2

To establish a laboratory network with the capabilities to provide integrated support to clinical research in preparation for and response to outbreaks in SSA.



Lead WP2:  
Amadou Sall



Co-lead WP2:  
Souleymane Mboup

## Objective 5

To enhance and maintain the operational research capacity of the ALERRT network by developing and implementing a training and capacity development programme.



Lead WP5: Palmer  
Masumbe Netongo



Co-lead WP5:  
Trudie Lang



Lead WP3:  
Bai Lamin Dondoh



Co-lead WP3:  
Harry van Loen

## Objective 3

To develop and implement a scalable, GCP-compliant, robust data management/ICT infrastructure suitable for resource-poor settings in SSA.



Lead WP6:  
Souleymane Mboup



Co-lead WP6:  
Shelley Lees

## Objective 6

To ensure that the actions of the network are relevant to, accepted and supported by local communities and that the results of the networks' efforts have a sustainable impact on health through improved clinical practice and public health policy.

## Objective 4

To establish a 'response framework' that alleviates administrative, regulatory and ethical bottlenecks and ensures ALERRT can act swiftly to initiate research.



Lead WP4:  
John Amuasi



Co-lead WP4:  
Fabien Taieb

## Objective 7

To establish ALERRT as a sustainable SSA network that is linked to international networks and that synergises with, and contributes to, global health-security efforts.



Lead WP7:  
Peter Horby



Co-lead WP7:  
Amadou Sall



ALERRT launch meeting, 10-11 March 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



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# ALERRT-WHO Ethics workshop on ethics preparedness. Dakar 20-21 March 2018



## WEEKLY BULLETIN ON OUTBREAKS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

Week 37: 8 - 14 September 2018  
Data as reported by 17:00, 14 September 2018

0

New events

52

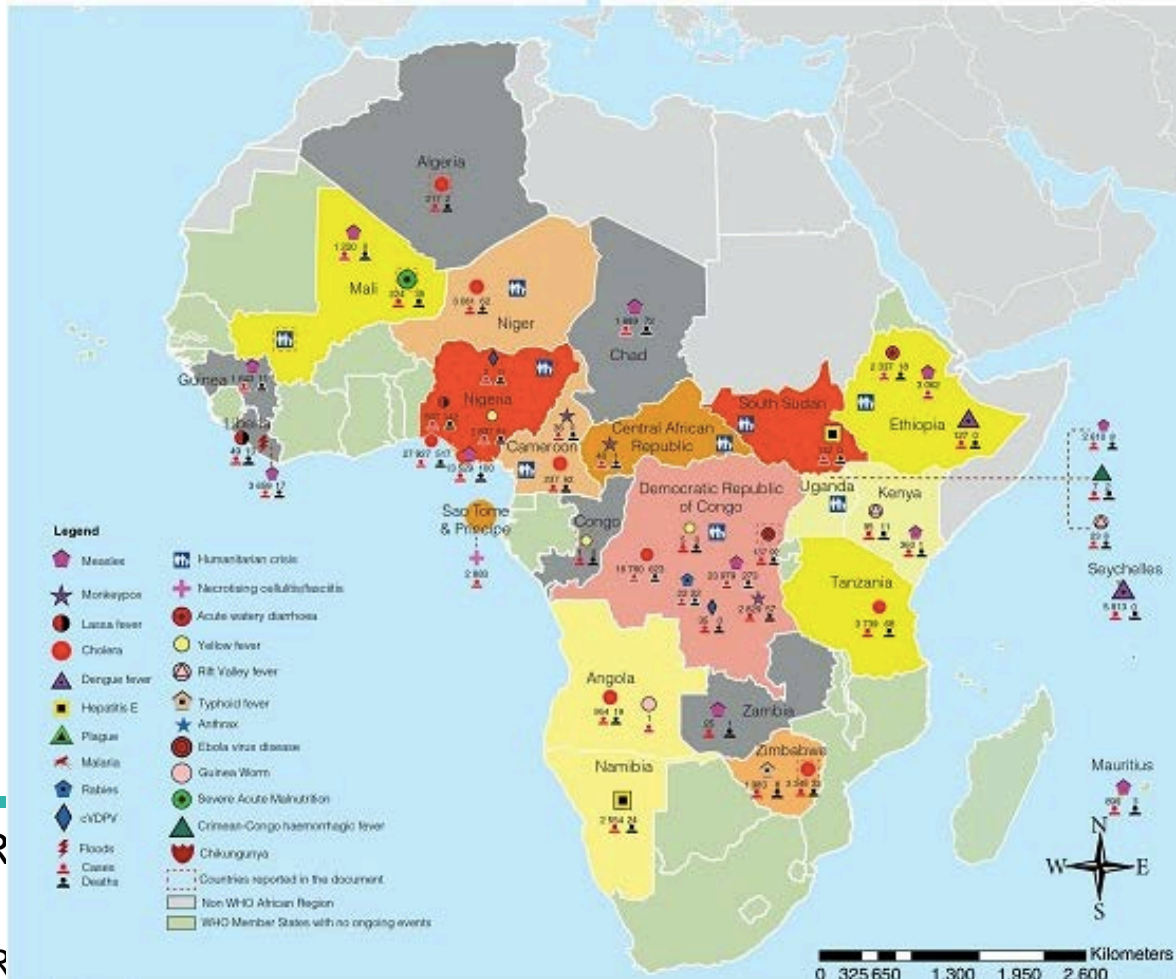
Ongoing events

41

Outbreaks

11

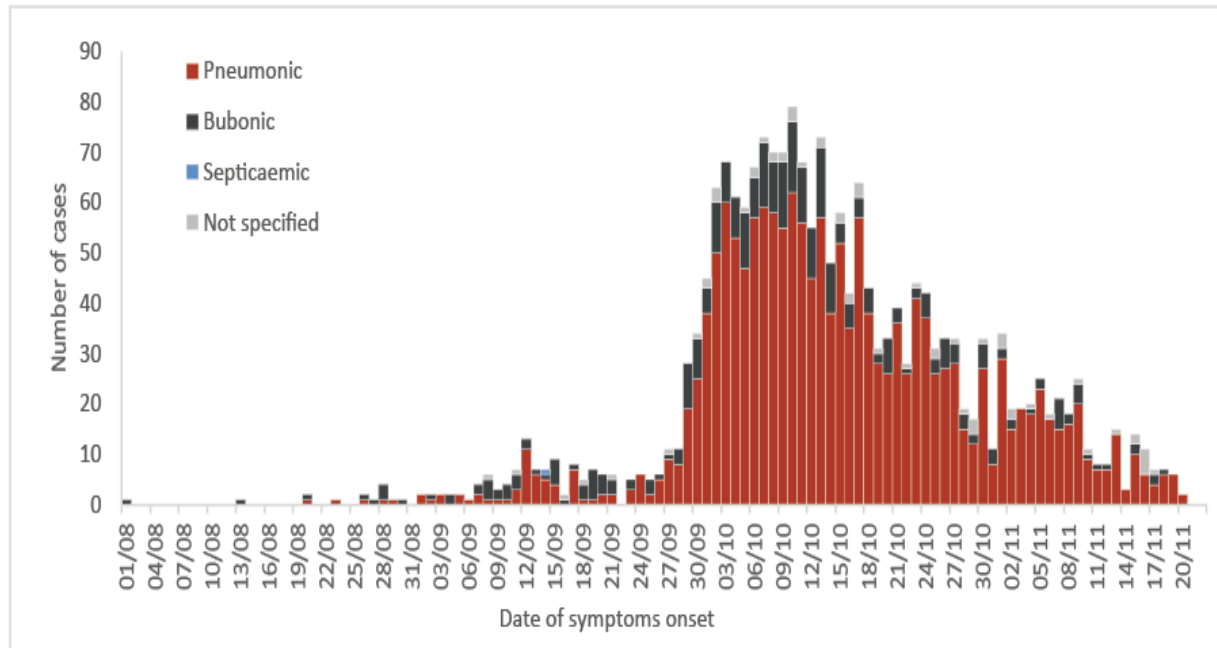
Humanitarian crises





# Responsiveness

## Plague research response



- Activated ALERRT WP5
- Clinical research skills training
- 15-20 July 2018



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# Responsiveness

- Nigeria Lassa fever research response – March 2018
  - Activated ALERRT through vote of Executive committee
  - Partners NCDC - WHO – ALIMA – INSERM - BNI
  - £50,000 mobilized immediately from ALERRT core funds
  - Secured £90,000 additional funds Wellcome/DfID



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# Nigeria Lassa fever research response

March 2018

## Lassa patient cohort

Owo Federal Medical Centre, Nigeria

Nigeria CDC

Inserm

ALERRT

PACCI Program, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Alliance for International Medical  
Action

Université de Bordeaux and CHU de  
Bordeaux, France

28 patients recruited to date



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# Ebola DRC

May & August 2018

- National Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB) - PI Dakar - ITM - ALIMA
- Experimental therapeutics
- Diagnostics
- Sequencing
- Application to Wellcome/DFID
- Application to EDCTP Emergency fund



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# Ebola DRC

- Support the monitored emergency use of experimental drugs in patients with EVD
  - Operational costs
  - Clinical research training workshop Goma, DRC
  - Clinical research governance, needs assessment and support
- Establishing a clinical research unit at INRB
- Diagnostics – RDT evaluation / sequencing
- Strengthen regulatory and pharmacovigilance capabilities



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# Ensuring ALERRT is a *trusted partner* at National, Regional and Global levels

**John H. Amuasi** (MBChB. MPH. MS. PhD.)

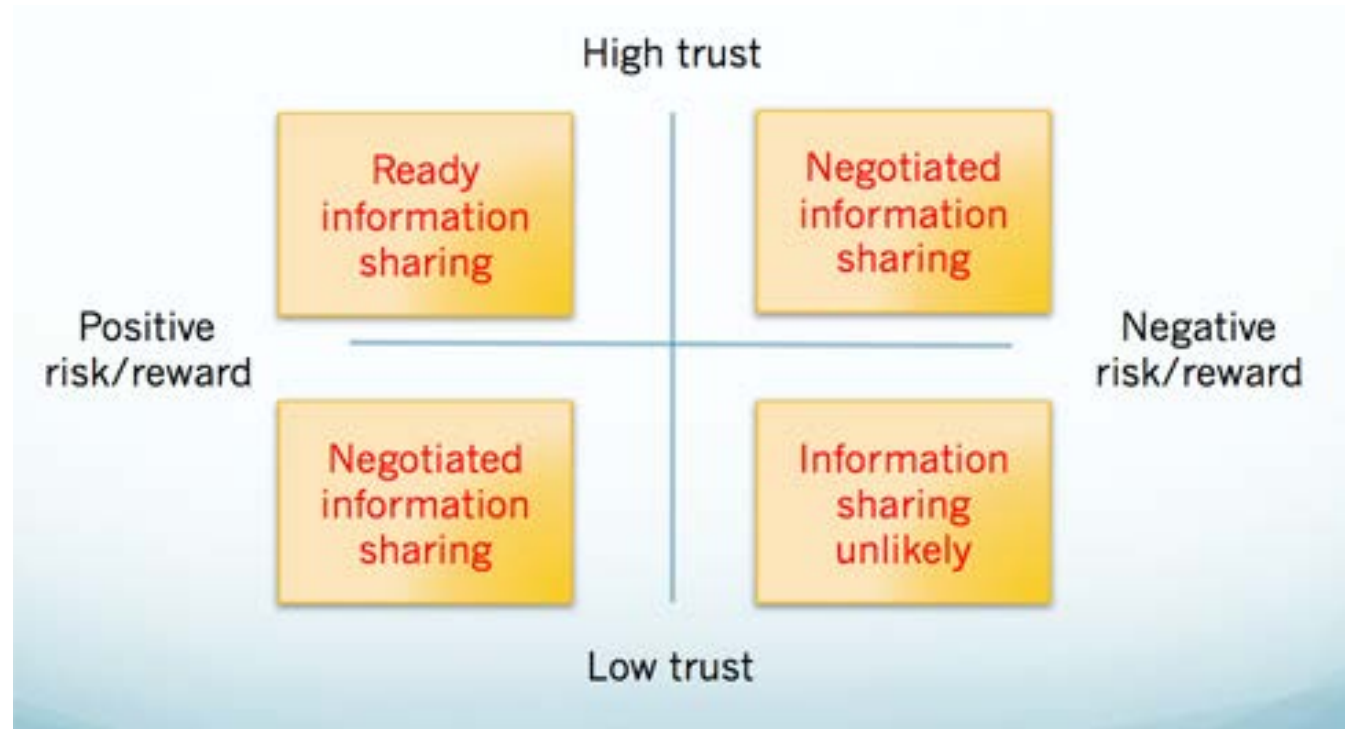
Lead, Global Health and Infectious Diseases Research Group  
Kumasi Center for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine  
KNUST School of Public Health, Department of Global Health

Email: [amuasi@kccr.de](mailto:amuasi@kccr.de)



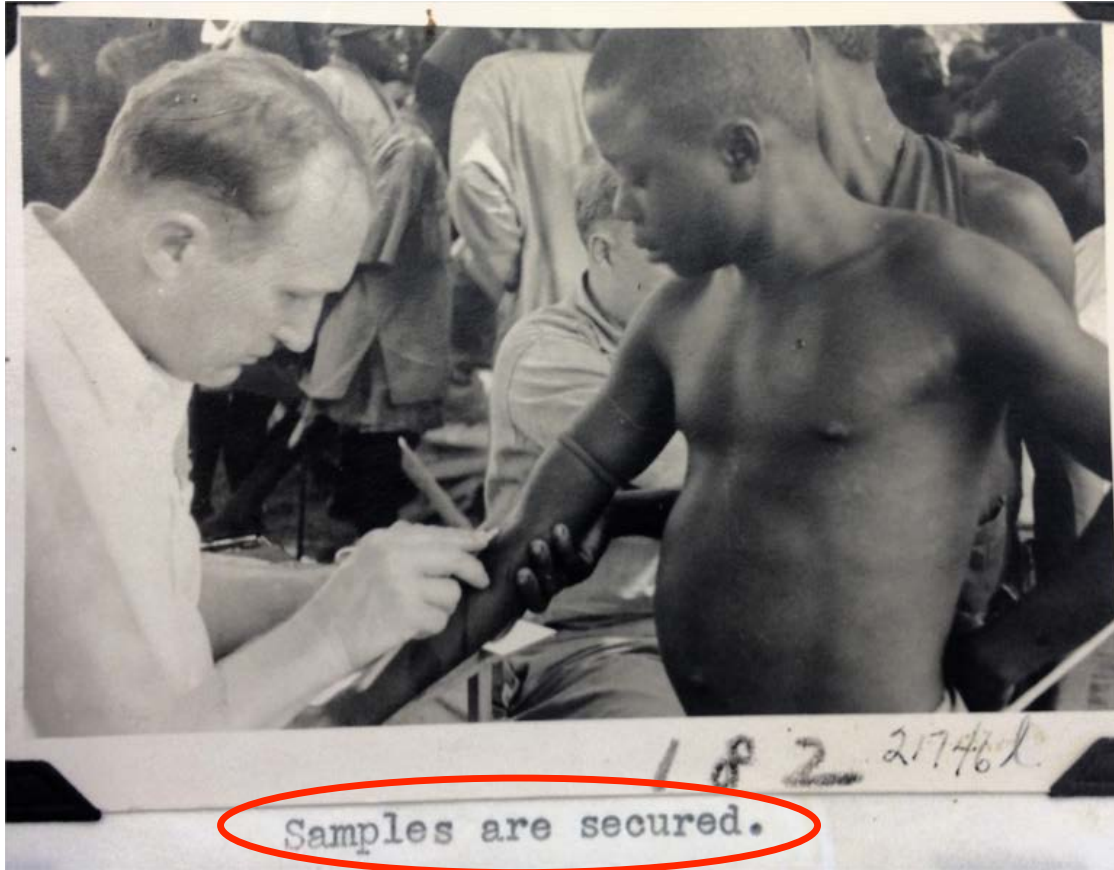
# A Trusted Partner..

- *Partnership* can take various forms and be at various levels
- The *trust* within the partnership is however built and is based on the risk perceived by the partners



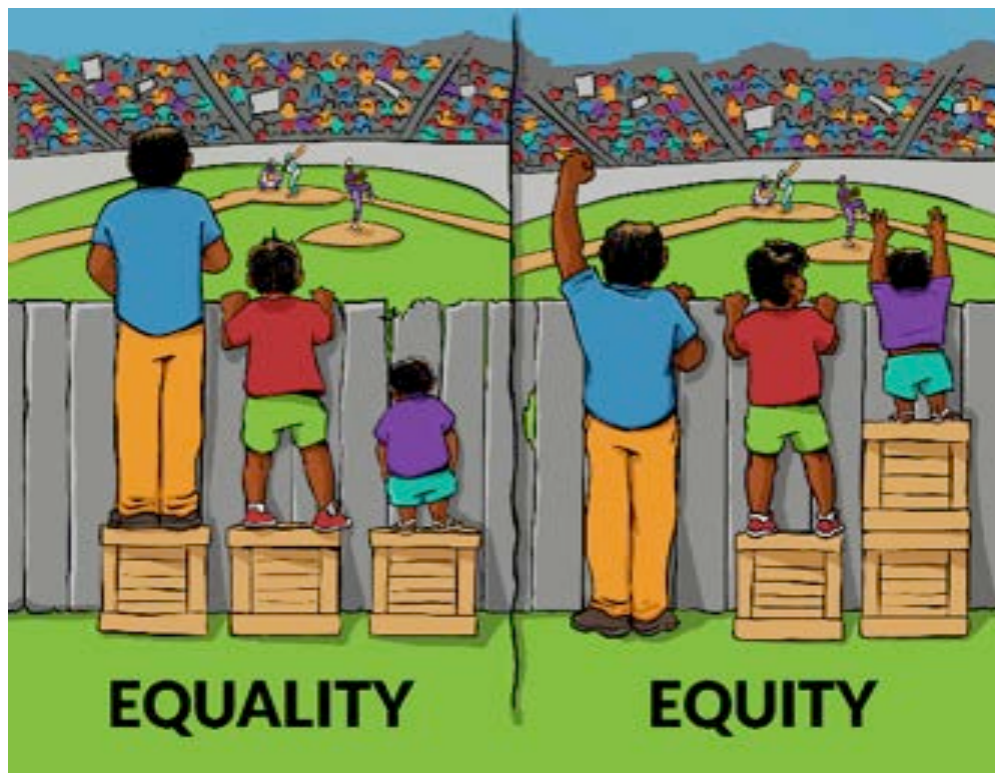
Source: <http://www.informationr.net/ir/15-4/paper440.html>

# Partnership...



Sources: <http://www.jennifertappan.com/publications/> <https://gmoanswers.com/why-university-industry-collaborations-biotechnology-matter>

“Partnerships go to the heart of research excellence and innovation. *Fair partnerships* are essential for development”. *Research Fairness Initiative, COHRED*



# A fair partnership breeds trust

- **Fair Opportunity:** recognizing unequal research management capacities between partners.
- **Fair Process:** engaging in local training, hiring and sourcing.
- **Fair Sharing:** of Benefits, Costs and Outcomes.



- Follow the explicit rules (*laws*)
- But be more sensitive to the implicit rules (*honesty, objectivity, openness, confidentiality, respect for intellectual property, and integrity etc.*)



# National

- Create opportunities for capacity development at local institutions
- Includes employment and active sourcing of local materials and services
- Avoid “Helicopter research” at all cost

# Regional

- Align with regional bodies and priorities (AFRO, Africa CDC etc.)
- Maintain neutrality and independence

# Global

- Maintain visibility and keep clear message on research as part of epidemic response
- Partner closely with global stakeholders involved in epidemic response

# Thank you!



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Thank you for your attention



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