

# Building a sustainable health research ecosystem in Ghana and across Africa

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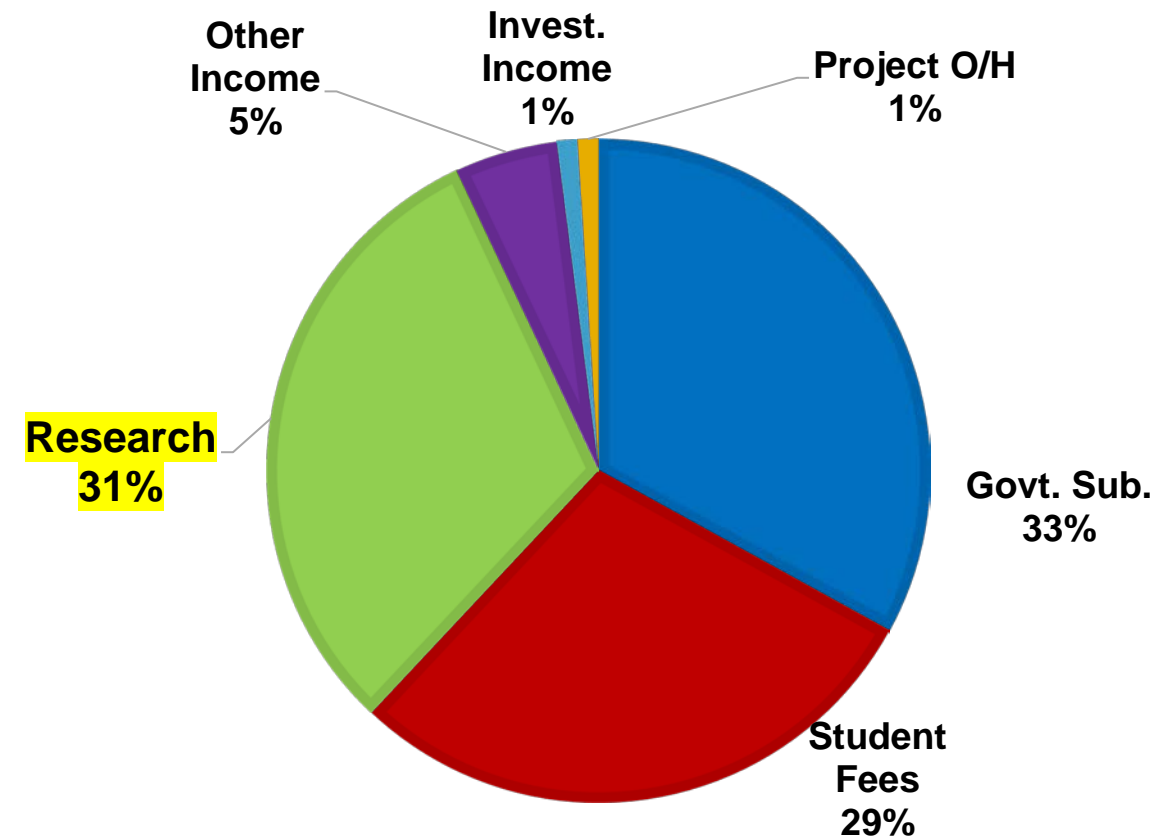
# The Africa we want

- Goal # 2 of Agenda 2063: Well-educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation
- Need for sustainable research ecosystems - for both physical and intellectual transformation
- Universities are best placed to build sustainable research capacity:
  - ✓ Combining education, research and innovation
  - ✓ In partnership with industry
- Investment in research in Africa still very low (<0.5% of GDP)
- Significant number of Africa's intellectuals lost to brain drain:
  - Major push factors include poor research ecosystem and low remuneration



# Research capacity building at University of Ghana

- Research income a major source of funds for universities globally - African universities need to be well positioned to compete for funding
- Establishing a sustainable research ecosystem is essential for global competitiveness
- University of Ghana (UG) has made significant progress in quest to become a research-intensive university
- Established Office of Research, Innovation and Development in 2010, with a Pro Vice-Chancellor responsible
- Interfacing with government and industry partners
- Promoting centres of excellence – three World Bank centres and others



UG Finance, 2024

# Capacity-building actually works

## From beneficiary to implementor - through TDR

- I got into research through a fellowship on a TDR grant
  - Masters fellowship: 1999-2021 at Noguchi, UG
- Got PhD opportunity while attending a MIM conference supported by TDR
- PhD fellowship from NIH/Fogarty International Centre grant at University of Pittsburgh
- Returned home and established a research capacity building centre at UG
  - West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP)
  - Supported by World Bank and Wellcome Trust



**Prof. Bartholomew Dicky Akanmori**  
**PI/MPhil research supervisor**

Multilateral Initiative on Malaria/  
TDR grant 980037

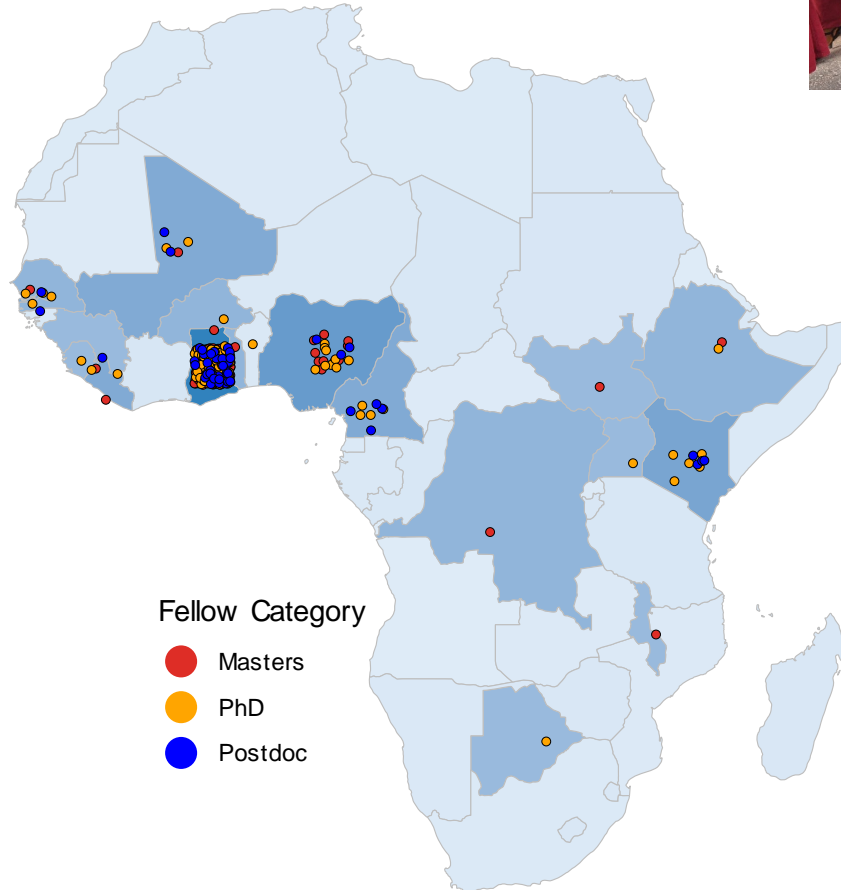


# WACCBIP impact – 2014-2024



\$53m >15 funding agencies

- Building a world-class research environment
- Fostering leadership development and mentorship
- Reducing the brain drain and promoting brain repatriation



## FELLOWSHIPS

400



151



249

# Strengthening University of Ghana School of Public Health (UGSPH) as leading implementation research institution in Africa

1. TDR supports UGSPH in development of implementation research (IR) curricula/courses, competency framework, faculty training and career development at sub-regional, regional and global levels.
2. UGSPH collaborates at the regional/sub-regional level to strengthen IR capacity of other regional institutions.
3. Achieved through regional training centre (RTC) in the WHO African Region and TDR Postgraduate Training Scheme (MPH, MSc. and PhD) with IR focus.

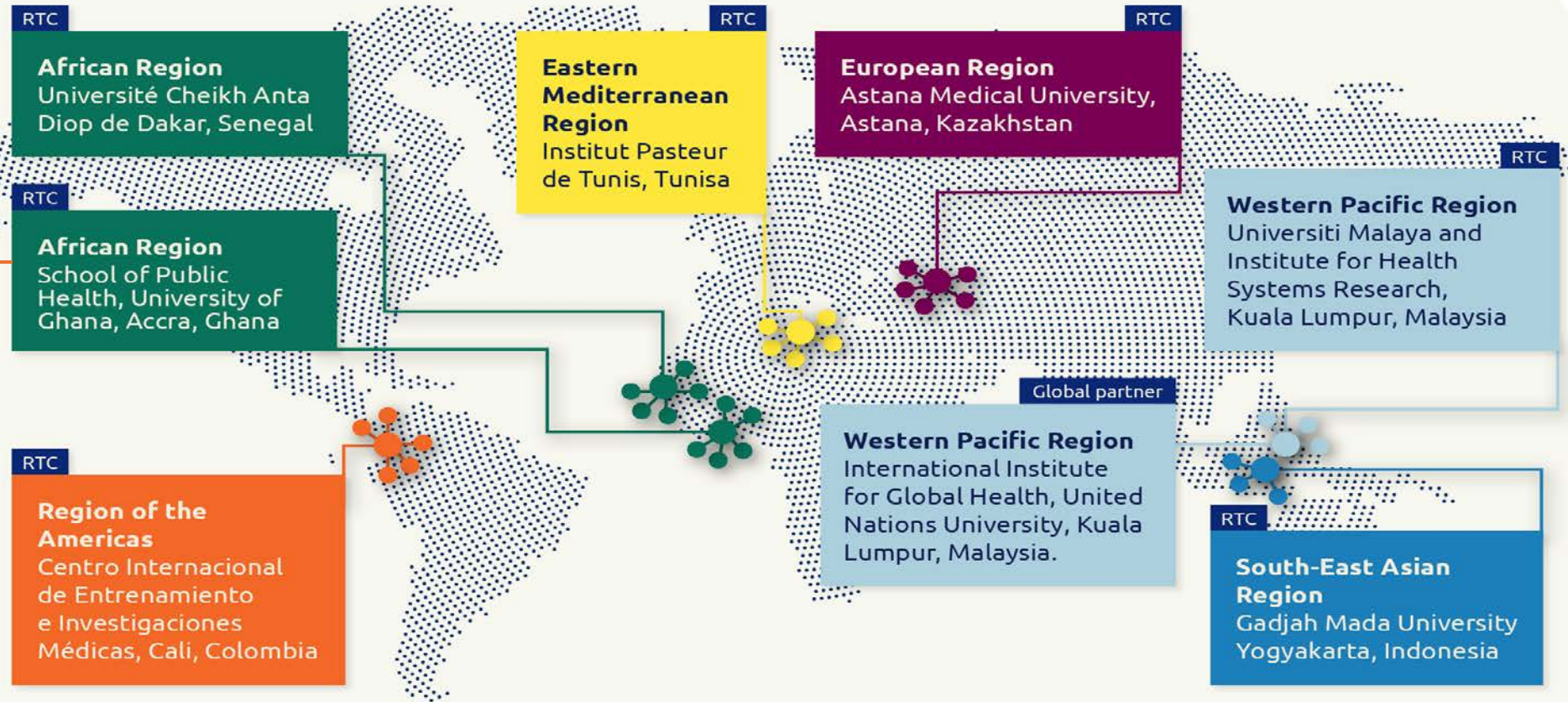




# UGSPH is one of seven regional training centres across six WHO regions

## Regional training centres (RTCs)

UGSPH



# TDR supports UGSPH as RTC in WHO African Region (2014-2024)

A decade of demonstrated leadership in IR training across Africa and beyond

UGSPH coordinates running of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in IR, globally

UGSPH supports other RTCs to run MOOC in WHO regions

2018 to date >25,000 trained so far



## MOOC SESSION ON IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH (IR) WITH A FOCUS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF POVERTY (IDP) AND INCORPORATING AN INTERSECTIONAL GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Registration Deadline: June 6, 2024  
(Enrollment based on available space)

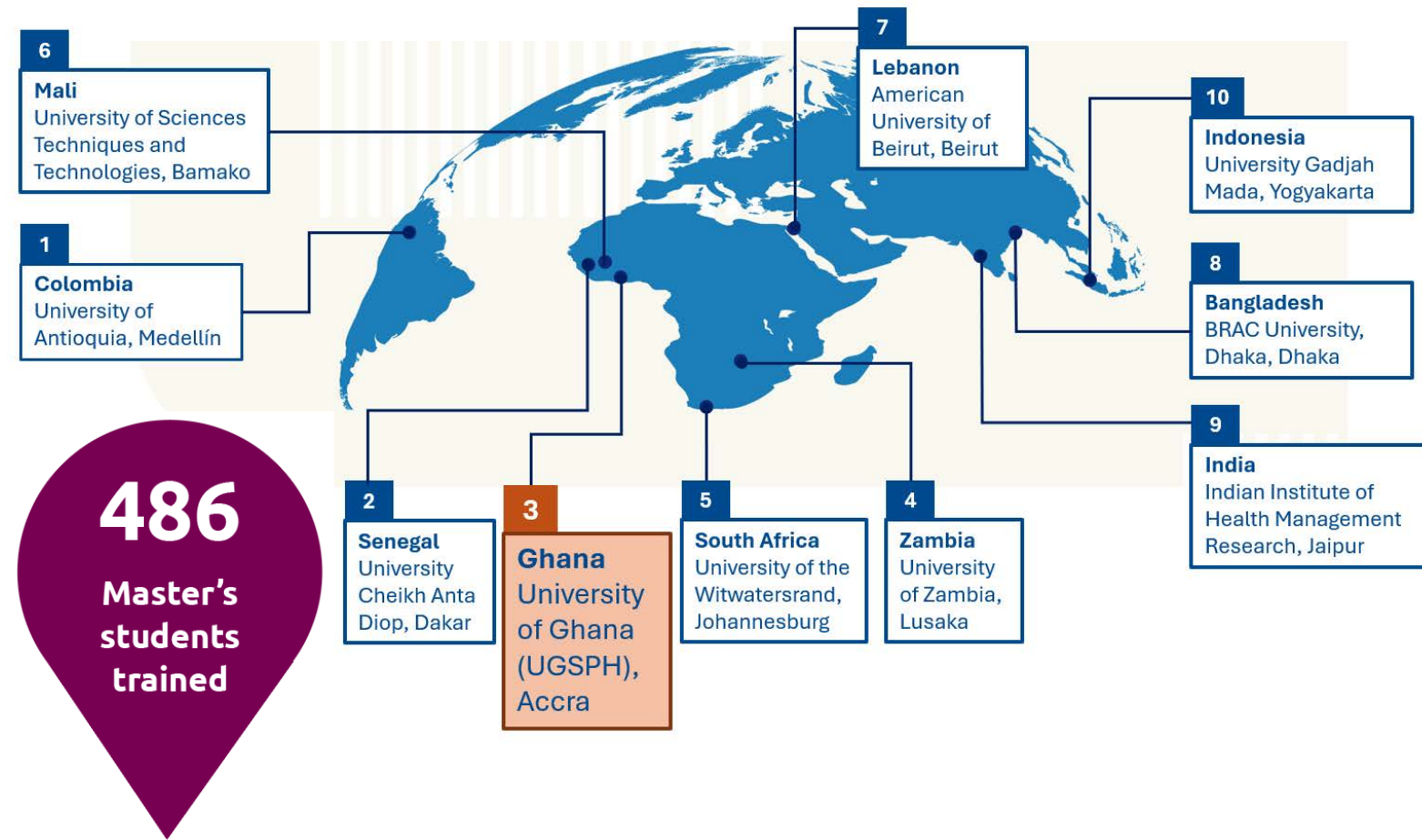
Course Starts: June 10, 2024  
Course Ends: August 30, 2024

To register, please fill out the form: <https://forms.gle/cWdmE1Jn5Mr4bs4N7>





# TDR Postgraduate Training Scheme – UGSPH part of Global Network of Institutions



486

Master's students trained



Total worldwide since 2015

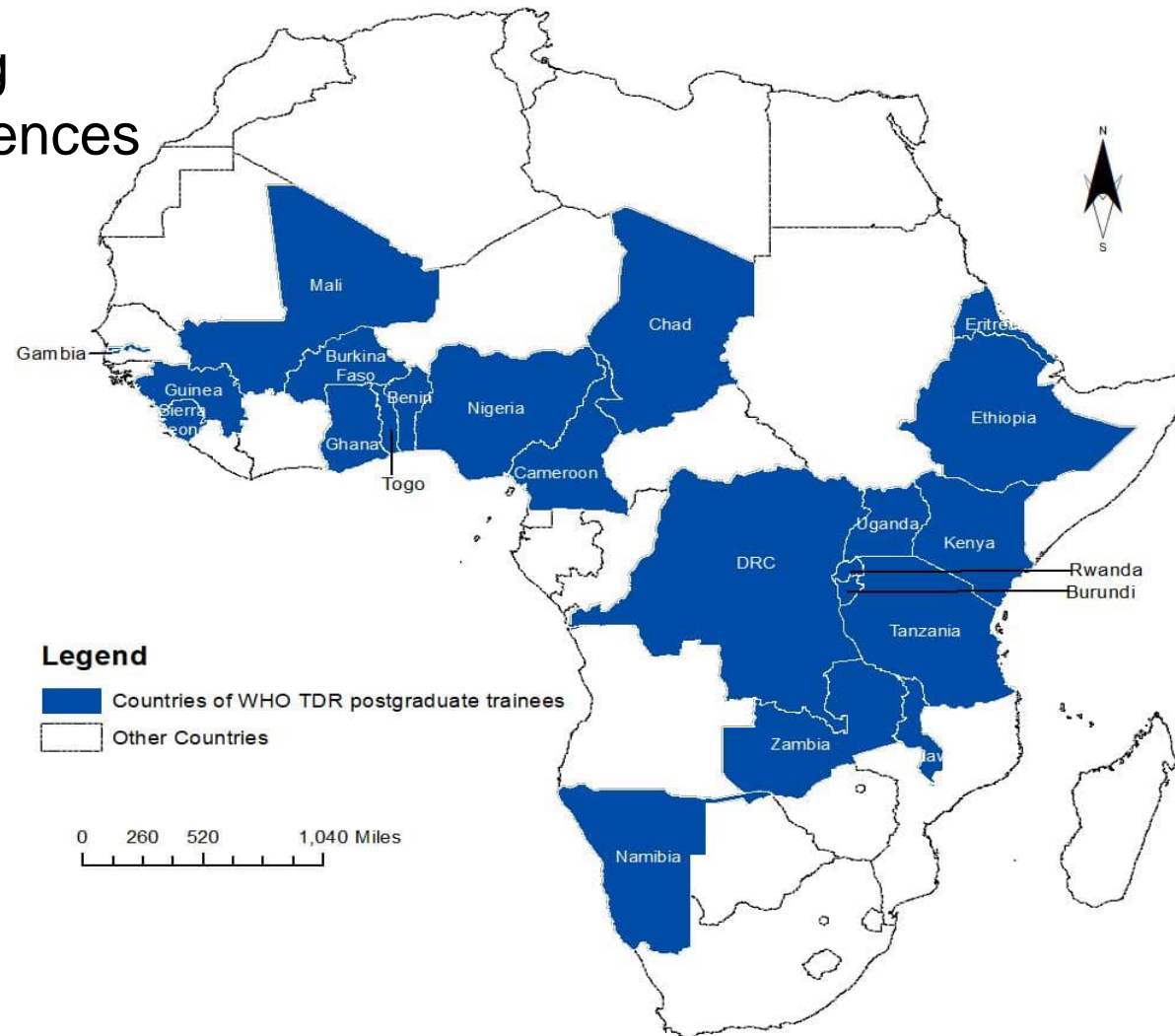


# Impact of TDR Postgraduate Training programme at UGSPH (2016-2024)

- Providing quality IR education, promoting cross-cultural experiences and networking

**67**  
IR Scholars  
22 countries

 **27**  
 **40**



**Tuberculosis, HIV,  
malaria, yaws,  
schistosomiasis,  
helminthiasis, etc.**

# Impact of implementation research at UGSPH on delivery of health interventions in Ghana

1. Addressing RTS, S/ASO1<sub>E</sub> vaccine defaults in Ghana through implementation research (Okyere J et al., 2023).
2. Identified the barriers to TB treatment adherence in Ghana from the patients' perspective (Appiah et al., 2023)
3. Factors affecting patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART) lost to follow-up in Ghana (Kogi et al., 2024)





# TDR's Impact: Supporting the development of global leaders across Africa



**Dr Melvin Katey Agbogbately (2018 MPH)**  
Research Fellow @ KCCR, Ghana and  
Bernhard Nocht Inst for Trop Med

*"The TDR Fellowship has been pivotal in advancing my career in global health by equipping me with invaluable knowledge, cross-cutting skills, and a strong professional network"*



**Dr Chinenye Bembir (2015 PhD)**  
Centre for Translation and Implementation  
Research, College of Medicine, Univ of  
Nigeria

*"... a significant milestone in my academic journey, ...allowed me to pursue my goal of becoming an Implementation Research Scientist. ..provided protected time and ample funding to carry out high-quality research"*



**Dr Mbele Whiteson (2023, MSc. AHSS)**  
Medical officer in Charge, Kasiya Mission  
Hospital, Ministry of Health, Zambia

*"... an invaluable catalyst in shaping my academic and professional journey. I have learned to recognize the intricate interplay between health outcomes and social determinants"*

# Sustaining a culture of IR training

UGSPH contributing to continuously improving IR training globally

- ✓ Piloting the TDR-initiated IR leadership programme
- ✓ Institutionalizing IR training through IR Masters programme
- ✓ Coordinating delivery of MOOC globally
- ✓ Learnings from MOOC used to incorporate interactive tools into the online learning space



# Acknowledgements

- TDR
  - ✓ Funding
  - ✓ Equitable partnership with UG
- ARTC team at SPH, UG
  - ✓ Effectively running the programmes
- World Bank and Wellcome
  - ✓ Funding WACCBIP, UG

