

# Developing courses and MSc programmes

Mwanza Research Methods course (Dr Fabian Mashauri)

MSc in Epidemiology and Applied Biostatistics (Jim Todd)

# Mwanza RM Course Background (2011)

- NIMR-Mwanza with financial support from THRiVE has helped the Centre to establish the course
- The course has been run for the past five consecutive years
- This is a two weeks research methods course
- Suitable for health researchers, social scientists, and students undertaking professional training (MSc, MMed, MPH, and PhD).
- Highly experienced researchers from NIMR Mwanza Centre, MITU and LSHTM
- These institutions are members of THRiVE consortium

# Why Mwanza RM Course?

- THRiVE new PhD students in 2011
  - New NIMR/MITU staff
  - MSc and PhD students from other universities in Tanzania
- ☐ NIMR/MITU first Tanzanian Research Institution to offer the course

# Course objectives

1. To introduce methods used in health research
2. To develop expertise in the use of research methods introduced in the course
3. To enable participants to select the right methods for future research projects

# Outline of course

- Introduction to Research methods, Epidemiology and Biostatistics
  - Mostly week one sessions
- Overview of specialist areas
  - Including laboratory methods, social science, clinical trials, field methods, bioethics & critical reading and referencing
- Five years in NIMR/MITU
  - Over 90 students
  - Spin off short course in CUHAS

**Table: Number of students attended Mwanza RM Course since its inception**

Year	Male	Female	Total
2011	14	11	25
2012	15	11	26
2013	8	4	12
2014	9	8	17
2015	11	6	17
TOTAL	57	40	97

\*14 students non Tanzanian

# Impact and future direction of RM course

- Accreditation of course in Tanzania
- Funding of students from projects and institutions
- Collaboration with LSHTM for inclusion in MSc course on Tropical Medicine.
  - Link with East African DTM&H (KCMU and Makerere)
  - Include distance learning modules from LSHTM
  - Initiate research project for students.
- Ensure RM course available to Tanzanian students at reasonable cost.

# MSc development in KCMU college Background (2010)

- Support from EDCTP (KCRI) and THRiVE (KCMC)
  - Support from Director of Postgrad Studies (then Ben Hammel)
  - Four studentships for first year (EDCTP)
  - THRiVE grant enabled technical support (50% post through LSHTM)
- Initial work from Seif Shekalaghe (KCRI) and Jim Todd (LSHTM)
  - Epidemiology modules (8 weeks)
  - Biostatistics modules (8 weeks)
  - In 2011 developed a Foundation course for all Masters level students.
- Collaborative approach
  - Teaching materials from LSHTM courses
  - External lecturers (UVRI, NIMR, CEDHA, KEMRI)



# MSc Epi and Applied Biostatistics. Achievements.

- Five years of experience (EAB teaching)
  - All modules developed and refined
  - Teaching undertaken by Tanzanian graduates (with mentoring)
  - Student projects in collaboration with NIMR, MoHSW, NGO, and other partners
- Strengthen other Masters/PhD programmes/research
  - Foundation course
  - Collaboration on research and student projects
  - Collaboration with other research institutions across East Africa
- Technical advice on course development
  - Collaboration with KCRI, BSU, and other projects
- Students have jobs in research (4 doing PhD)
  - MSc attracts students from other East African countries

# Developing new MSc at KCMU college

- MSc in Social Science for Health
  - Led by KCMU (under Director of Postgraduate Studies)
  - Utilizing modules from LSHTM
  - Support from research institutions in Tz and other African countries
  - Technical support from LSHTM (through THRiVE funding)
- Masters level coordinating committee
  - Modular and integrated curriculum across all MSc
- Linking new taught course modules with PhD studies, and with research institutions across East Africa
- Developing skills and expertise of new staff in KCMU

# Creating Links

*Through the careful design, development and implementation of a Masters programme LSHTM and KCMUCo have created sustainable and meaningful links across East Africa and beyond.*

With the support of THRIVE, between 2010 – 2015, the LSHTM supported MSc Epidemiology and Biostatistics (EAB) at KCMUCo has created/ strengthened links to more than 20 institutions.

This figure shows the geographical spread and flow of lecturers coming to teach on the MSc in EAB (in blue dashed line) and the institutions that are carefully selected for the students' 3 month research attachment (the red arrow).

Of note the map is incomplete and additional links should be included for the current working roles of the Alumni since graduating – further expanding this network

