

Outbreak Management Training in the West Africa Region: Lessons Learnt from EDCTP/ACDC funded MPH Epidemiology and Biostatistics programme in Nigeria

Olufunmilayo I. Fawole

Department of Epidemiology and Medical Statistic, Faculty of Public Health, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

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INTRODUCTION

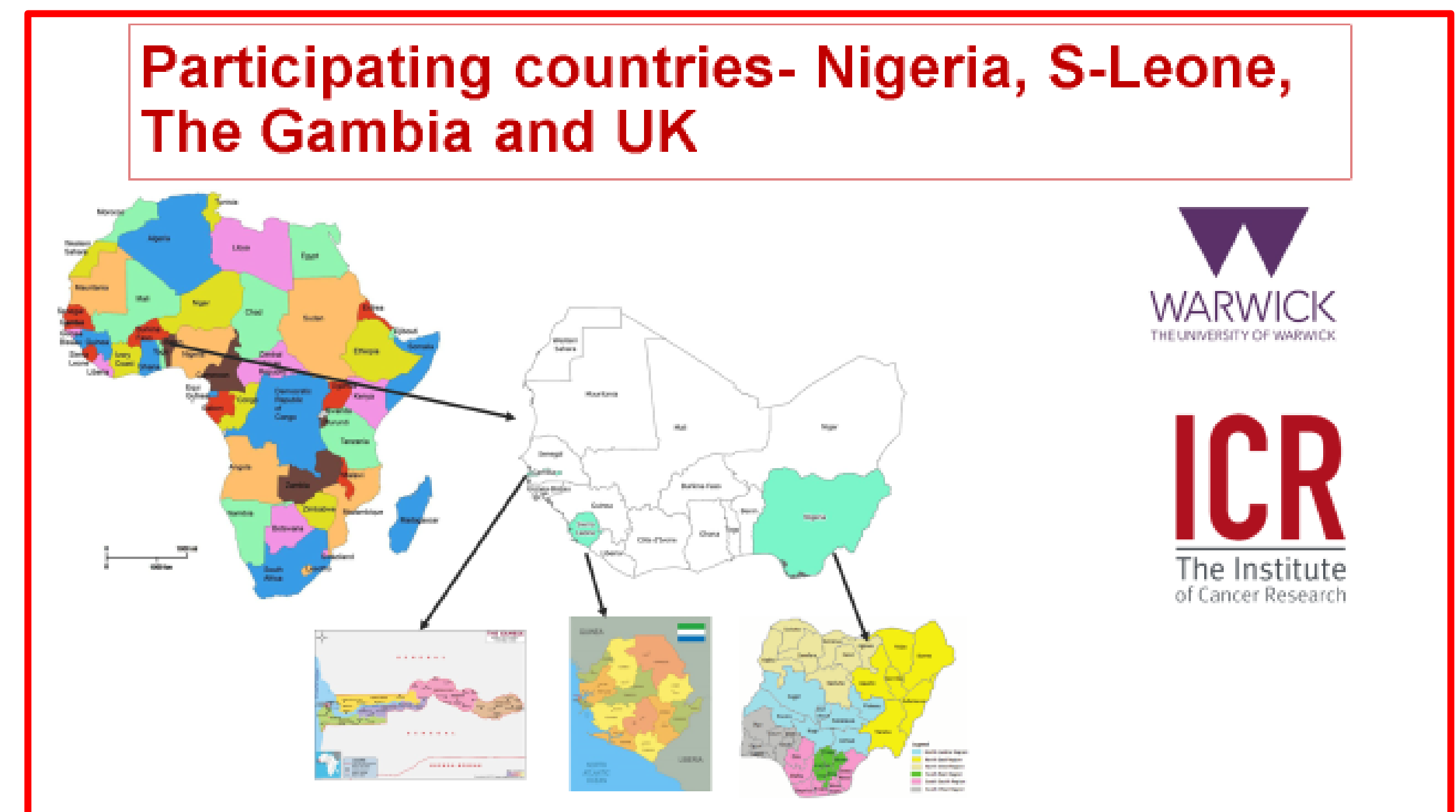
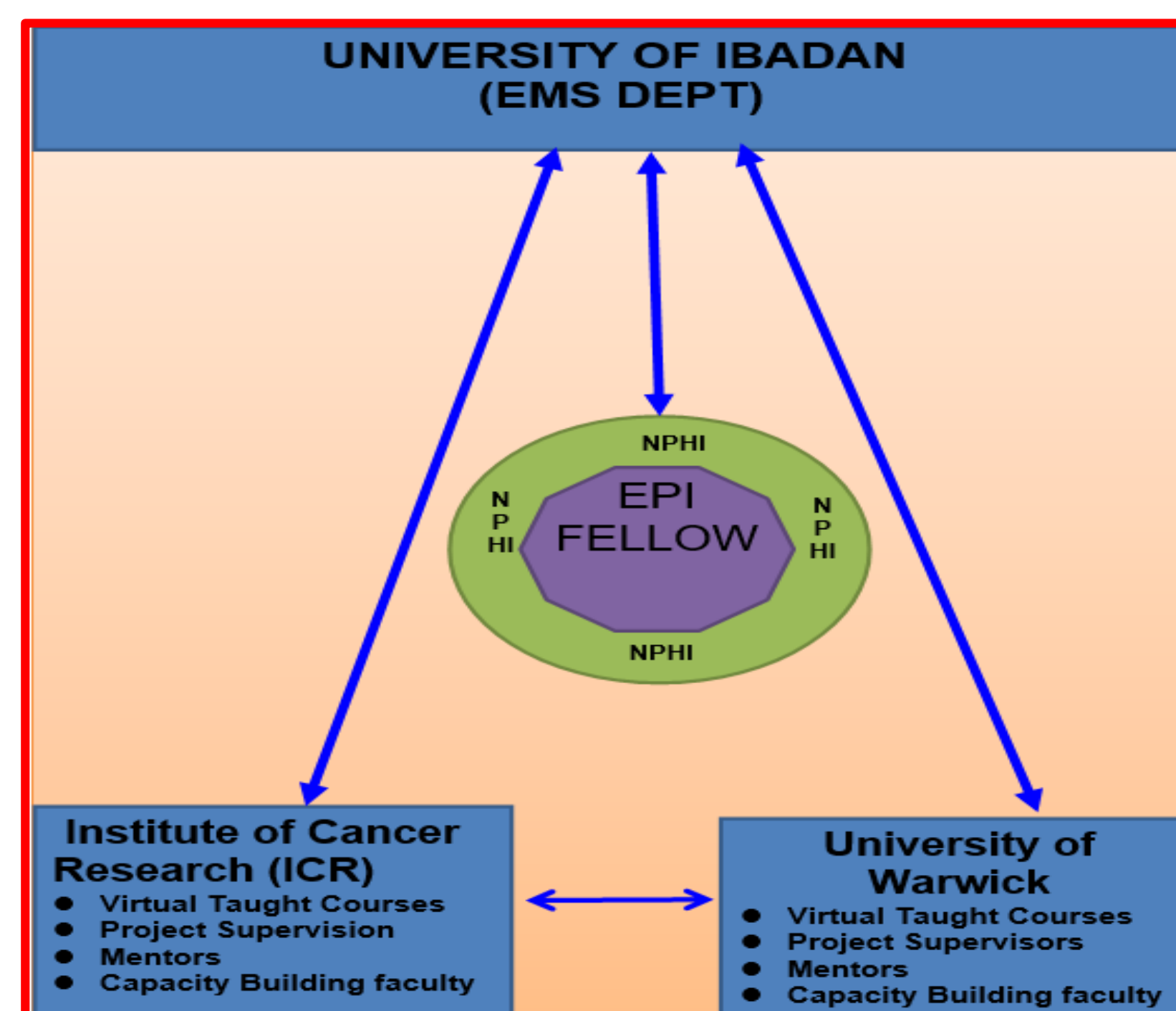
- Epidemic-prone diseases are a public threat especially in sub-Saharan Africa where there is a scarcity of skilled public health workforce.
- The University of Ibadan is well-positioned to provide competence-based training on outbreak management for Africans based on its over 20-year track record in postgraduate training in Epidemiology and Biostatistics.
- This paper describes the lessons learnt from the Masters training in Disease Outbreak and Epidemic Response.

SUMMARY

Objective: To train a cohort of epidemiologists and biostatisticians across sub-Saharan Africa, who can respond timely to disease outbreaks
Trainees: Of 82 applicants, 15 early to mid-career health workers were selected from Public Health Institutions in The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria
Trainers: University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Institute of Cancer Research, UK and University of Warwick, UK
Duration: 36 months (12= course work, 12 = internship, 6 = extended internship)
6 packages:- Preparatory Activities; Didactic Lectures; Field Internship; Seminar Presentations; Short courses/ conferences; Dissertation submission
Impact: 15 EPI Fellows trained from multiple disciplines, responding to outbreaks in West Africa

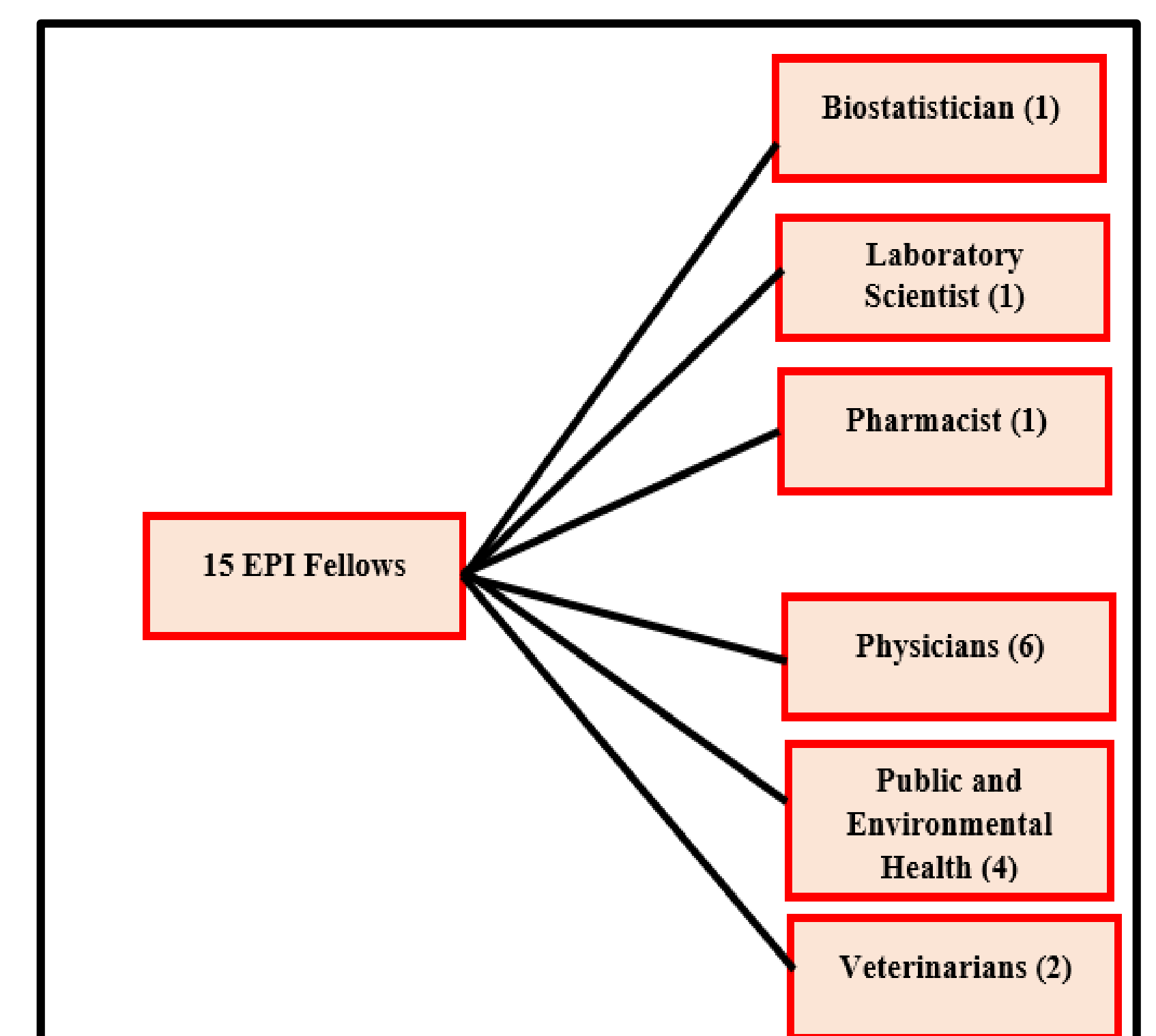


EPI Fellows and their mentors



OUTCOME:

- 15 Fellows who now supports their NPHIs
- The EPI Fellows :
 - Now skilled in infectious disease epidemiology concepts.
 - Have good research capacity and leadership skills
 - Can analyze data and manage outbreaks.
 - Can forecasts and do analytics to support public health decision-making.
 - Skilled in management of epidemiological units



IMPACT

- **Students:** Cohort of public health practitioners to be young researchers and future leaders in the West Africa sub-region
- Trained researchers who will strengthen Epidemic Preparedness and Response.
- **Staff:** Developed innovative training curriculum
- **Institution:** Improved infrastructure to meet international standard, new collaborations

LESSONS

- Top African universities can serve as a capacity building hub with support from northern partners.
- Multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary training helped to improve learning on outbreak management.
- Exposure to comprehensive training and internships improved knowledge and skills of trainees.
- Improvement in quality of training of other postgraduate programmes in the university.

6 Work Packages

- Project management
- Didactic lectures
- Field internship
- Research projects
- Workshops/short courses
- Communication & Dissemination



Email: fawoleo@gmail.com



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