



Capacity Building as a Response to Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases in Africa

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MCRI - A Collaborative Centre for Research Excellence in Eastern Uganda

The Capacity Gap in SSA

- Inadequate response to EREIDs
- Current non-degree /non-career FETP
- WHO International Health Regulations Standards
- Fragmented initiatives

Program Regulations

The regulations and guidelines for graduate programs at Busitema University apply:

- a) Admission and registration of students**
- b) University examinations**
- c) Research, supervision and examination of dissertations**

Admission Requirements

The minimum entry requirements will be as follows:

A master's degree in a health discipline such as:

- **Public Health,**
- **Biostatistics,**
- **Epidemiology,**
- **Master of Medicine,**
- **Nursing,**
- **Pharmacy,**
- **Dentistry,**
- **Veterinary medicine.**

Other master's degrees may be exceptionally considered on case-by-case basis, especially if they have strong population and community component with proven aspects of biostatistics, statistics and health such as:

- **Population demography,**
- **Environmental health,**
- **Laboratory Sciences,**
- **Nutrition,**
- **Fisheries.**

Nature of the Curriculum

Courses have:

- Theoretical
- Practical
- Filed work
- Research components
- Assessments and evaluation

Course delivery:

- At the training centres through face-to-face
- In the community or practicum sites under mentors.

Assessment and examinations

Each course will be assessed in three parts:

- Progressive Assessment: 10%
- Written Field Report: 20%
- Open Book Examinations: 20%

Written:

- Short Essay Questions: 20%
- Written Long Essay Questions: 20%
- Extended viva voce: 10%

IDEA Fellowship Programme Mandate

Vision

- Strengthening capacity building in infectious disease field epidemiology through a pragmatic fellowship training

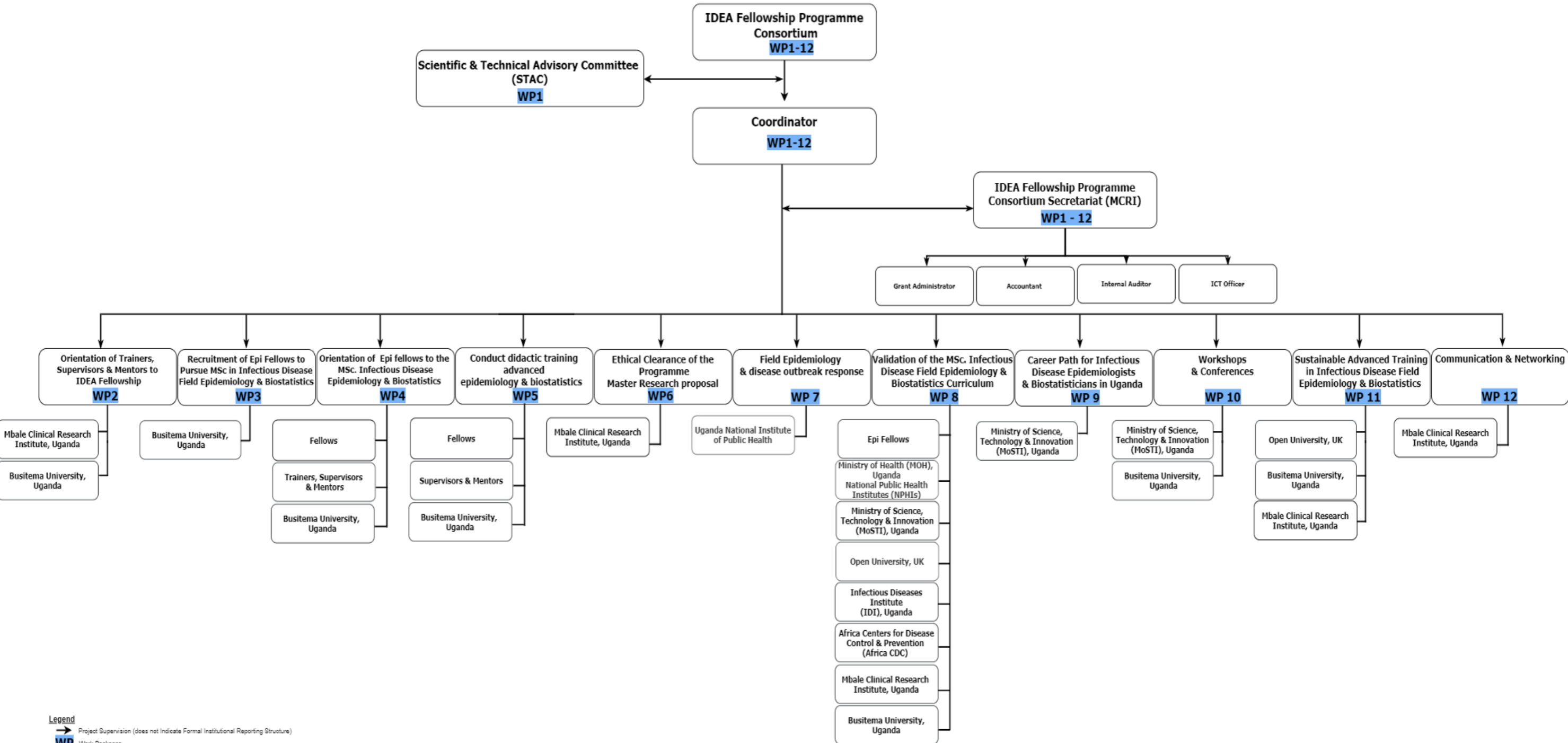
Consortium Shared Vision

- Fits into the mission of the consortium institutions:
 - Uganda National Public Health Institute
 - Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
 - Uganda National Health Laboratory and Diagnostic Services
 - Uganda Virus Research Institute
 - Mbale Clinical Research Institute
 - Infectious Diseases Institute
 - The Open University

Strategic Collaborations

- Uganda National Public Health Institute
- Uganda National Health Lab. & Diagnostic Services
- Uganda Virus Research Institute
- Mbale Clinical Research Institute
- Infectious Diseases Institute
- Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation
- The Open University

SUMMARY OF THE IDEA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



Infrastructure, equipment & staff



Collaborating institutions provide for these functions

IDEA Fellowship Program

The main goal is to equip EPI Fellows with:

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Competences

In Infectious Disease Field Epidemiology & Biostatistics.

To build leadership capacity in:

- Infectious disease surveillance,
- Disease outbreak investigations
- Infectious disease outbreak response.

**UGANDA NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME
FOR
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE FIELD
EPIDEMIOLOGY
(MSc. IDFE)**

**CURRICULUM
(January 2021)**

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY

IN

COLLABORATION

WITH

**MBALE CLINICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (MCRI), UGANDA
UGANDA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (UNIPH)
UGANDA VIRUS RESEARCH INSTITUTE (UVRI)
INFECTIOUS DISEASE INSTITUTE (IDI), UGANDA
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY (OU), UK
UGANDA NATIONAL HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICES (UNHLS)
UGANDA MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**



First Cohort of IDEA IDFE Fellows



Akello Sarah Rachael
BSWASA, CERT-IN ADMIN LAW, DPAM, MPH & IDEA Fellow



Nsubuga Sydney
Dip Med, BSc, MPH & IDEA Fellow



Mr. Alunyo Jimmy Patrick
BDV, MPH & IDEA Fellow



Ms. Birungi Patience
BCP, MHSR & IDEA Fellow



Dr. Paasi George
MBCh.B, MPH & IDEA Fellow



Dr. Okalebo Charles
B.PHARM, MPH & IDEA Fellow



Mr. Bogere Mathias Ngobi
Bsc PH, MPH & IDEA Fellow



Mr. Madenje Micheal
DCMCH, BHSM, MPH & IDEA Fellow



Ms. Nabaggala Grace Ssanyu
BBLT, MCEB & IDEA Fellow



Mr. Opolot Godfrey
BSc. PH, Dip.EH, PG. DHSM,
MSc. Epi & Bios tat & IDEA Fellow



Dr. Okiror William
MBCh.B, MPH & IDEA Fellow



Ms. Aujo Deborah
BBLT, DPPM, MPH & IDEA Fellow



Mr. Oposhia Joseph
BEHS, MPH & IDEA Fellow

Regulations & Requirements for the Programme

Program Duration

- Duration: 2 years (4 semesters @17 weeks).
- Early to mid-level career fellows
- 15 – Admitted, currently 13 progressing well.

Program Award

- MSc. in Infectious Disease Epidemiology of Busitema University.

Justification

- The MSc. IDFE is informed by capacity gaps
- No programme currently trains specialists
- Need for local capacity
- Harmonise training for national interests
- Establishment of a career path in IDFE in Uganda & SSA

Program Competences

The Epi Fellows will have competences in:

- Infectious disease outbreak surveillance and reporting
- Infectious disease field epidemiology
- Infectious disease biostatistics
- Infectious disease outbreak response

Epi Fellows' Training

- **First 12 Months - All theoretical work**
- **Projects:**
 - COVID-19
 - Ebola Virus Disease
 - MDR-TB
 - Mumps
 - Cholera
 - Aflatoxin
 - CCHF
 - Malaria
 - Polio
 - Measles
- **Next 12 Months:**
 - Field work
 - Working with mentors & faculty
 - Complete MSc. Research Project



IDEA Conference on EREIDS

13-14 SEP 2023



- 150 Participants
 - Local
 - International
- Key presentations on EREIDS
- Epi Fellows on the lead
- Participation of key stakeholders
- Networking
- Report
- Promise of the 2nd in 2024

Challenges

- Lack of Programme Level Funding
- Duration of the current programme: Duration of 3 years.
 - Then what?
 - Sustainability

Proposes solution

- At least another round of funding (**Prog. level**)

Impact

- First Nationally Recognised Curriculum on IDFE
- 13 – EREIDs being investigated – Policy briefs
- Guidelines on – Blackwater fever in Uganda
- MoH Malaria Scientific Advisory Committee (MSAC)
- Data sharing & Dissemination at WMD 25/4/2023
- Networking

Conclusion

- IDEA Fellowship Programme is being implemented through an approved curriculum.
- The first cohort of the Epi Fellows have impacted recognition and control of 13 – EREIDS.
- Sustainability of these initiatives requires program level funding.



Acknowledgements