



THE ECOSYSTEM OF EVIDENCE

Lessons learned in the pandemic
era and future challenges

10th International Conference for EBHC Teachers and Developers
10th Conference of the International Society for EBHC
Tzaneen, 25th - 28th October 2023

#EBHC2023



● Centre for
● Evidence
● Based
● Health
● Care

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See one, do one, teach one: Building capacity of African teachers of evidence-based health care through experiential learning

Background

Collaboration for Evidence-based Healthcare and Public Health in Africa (CEBHA+)

- 7 African, 2 German partners
- BMBF funded: 2017 to 2023

CEBHA+

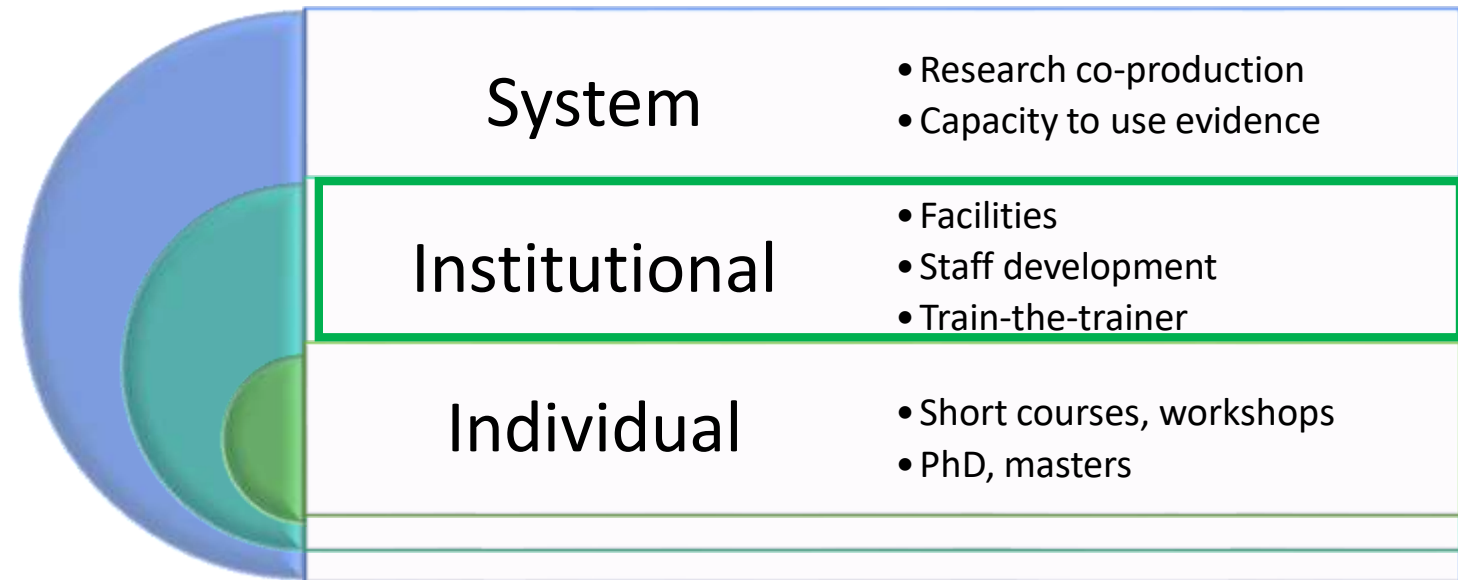
Aims

- To establish long-term capacity and infrastructure for evidence-based healthcare and public health in sub-Saharan Africa
- To strengthen African research institutions
- To build competence in the understanding and rapid uptake of evidence in health system institutions



Aim

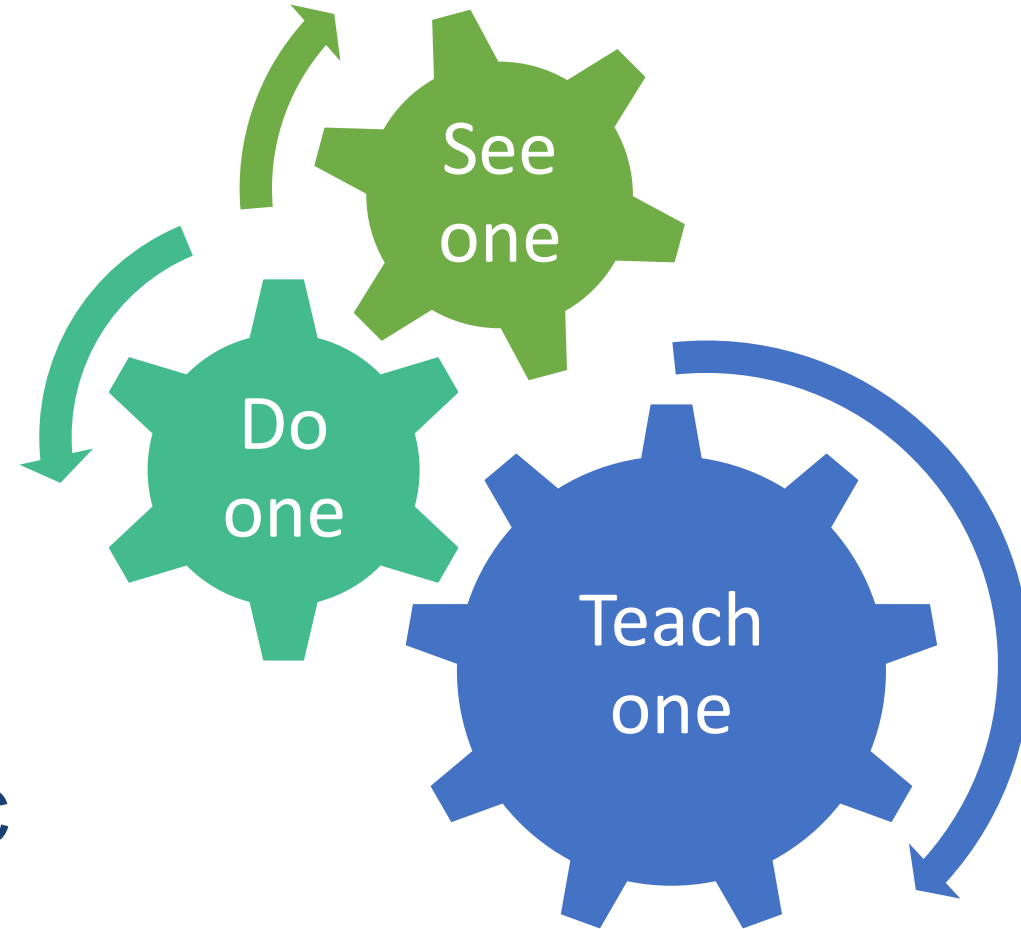
- To equip CEBHA+ partners with knowledge and skills to teach EBHC
- To describe our approach and experience of training teachers of EBHC in Sub-Saharan Africa within a five-year project



Methods

Experiential learning approach:

1. Attended Teaching Evidence-based Health Care (EBHC) course at Stellenbosch University
2. Taught on Evidence-based Public Health (EBPH) workshop
3. Co-facilitated train-the-trainer in EBHC



1. Teaching EBHC at SU



Aim:

- to develop an understanding of the fundamental theory relating to teaching and learning in an adult learning context, and to apply that theory in an authentic EBHC teaching context

Blended approach:

- online learning and a one week, in-person contact block
- Integrating didactic and interactive learning

Assessment:

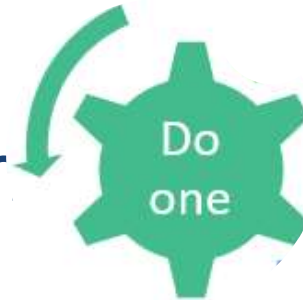
- Plan, implement and evaluate an EBHC teaching event





2. EBPH workshops

- CEBHA+ partners joined a workshop in another country to observe and assist
- Subsequently hosted workshop in own country
- Experienced facilitators provided guidance and mentorship
- Reflections during and after the workshop
- Virtual support during Covid-19



Evidence-based Public Health Workshop



Aim:

To introduce the concepts of EBPH in terms of finding, appraising, interpreting and applying best evidence to public health evidence relevant to the African setting

Kampala, Uganda: 8-12 October 2018

Kigali, Rwanda: 23-27 September 2019

Blantyre, Malawi: 8-10 September 2021

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 13-17 December 2021

Cape Town, South Africa: 24-28 October 2022



Target audience: Public health practitioners, researchers and students

- Mix of local and external facilitators
- Building capacity to teach EBPH
- Virtual presentations



Interactive teaching approach:

- Scenarios
- Small group discussions
- Hands-on searching
- Practical exercises

5-day schedule:

- Introduction to EBPH, phrasing questions
- Searching for evidence
- Reading primary studies
- Reading systematic reviews
- Interpreting and applying results



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Evidence-based Public Health workshop



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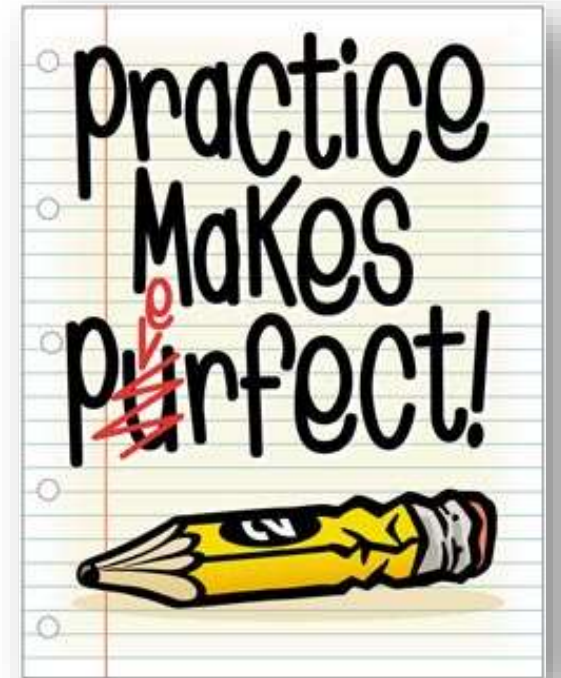


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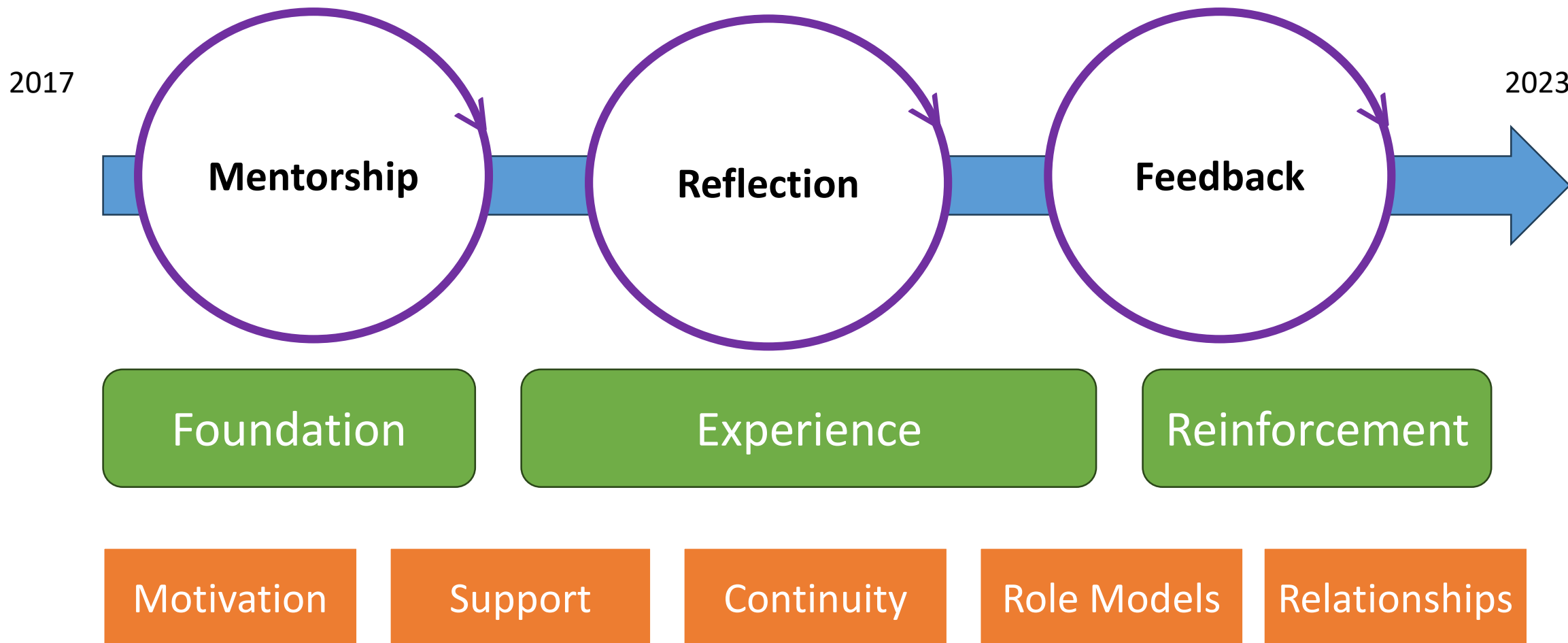
3. CEBHA+ Train-the-trainer



- To equip participants with knowledge and skills to plan, implement and evaluate an EBHC learning event
- Lecturers, clinicians, researchers
- Hybrid workshop across CEBHA+
- Participants met in-person in each country
- Virtual participation from each country team
- CEBHA+ partners facilitated interactive exercises
- Didactic input and feedback from groups virtually



Results



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Limits

- Time and resource intensive
- Required a lot of travelling
- Dependent on external funds
- Did not formally evaluate this approach



Conclusions

- Multi-pronged, longitudinal, experiential learning approach worked well
- Increasing pool of EBHC teachers is a sustainable way to ensure training of EBHC can continue after funding period
- Network of African EBHC teachers
- Opportunity to explore virtual support and mentorship



Thank you

Funding acknowledgement:

The CEBHA+ project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) as part of the Research Networks for Health Innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa Funding Initiative. The funder did not have any role in the development of the presentation.



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