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# Training course in research methodology and research protocol development 2021

Providing knowledge and skills in research methodology and research protocol development to health professionals in sexual and reproductive health field



**End of course meeting  
02 November 2021**

Course coordinators: Moazzam Ali (WHO), Tomas Allen (WHO) and Karim Abawi (GFMER)

Collaborating partners: Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) and the Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research of the World Health Organisation

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# AGENDA

- Welcome/thank you – Raqibat Idris (GFMER) - 10 mins
    - Course highlights
  - Reflections – 30 mins
    - Participants (6 mins)
    - Coaches (4 mins)
    - Course resource persons / Organizers (20 mins)
  - Final words – 10 mins
    - Fiona Poon (GFMER)
    - Course Coordinator (WHO)
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# WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Dr Raqibat Idris, the GFMER Course manager welcomed all attendees and expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the course:

- Course coordinators: Tomas Allen, Dr Moazzam Ali and Dr Karim Abawi
  - Resource persons: Tomas Allen, Jose Luis Garnica Carreño, Dr Nguyen Thi My Huong, Dr Moazzam Ali (WHO), Dr Jane Hirst (University of Oxford), Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf (University of Ireland), Dr Maryam Hemed (UNICEF, Tanzania) and Dr Karim Abawi (GFMER)
    - Webinars: Tomas Allen, Jose Luis Garnica Carreño, Moazzam Ali and Jane Hirst
  - Coaches
  - Sponsors
  - Participants
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# Course highlights



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## COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Enrolment:** Total 194 enrolled participants from 35 countries
    - Gender - mostly female (66%)
    - Age group - 30-39 (42%) and 40-49 (38%) years
    - Profession - Doctors 27%, Program Management / Implementation 20%, Professor / Lecturer / Researcher 17%, Government Official 9%
  - **Coaching:** 20 coaches from 16 countries
  - **Sponsorships:**
    - WHO / MOH (44%)
    - Others: Pathfinder International, UNFPA, UNICEF, CARE International and Marie Stopes.
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## RM 2021 COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

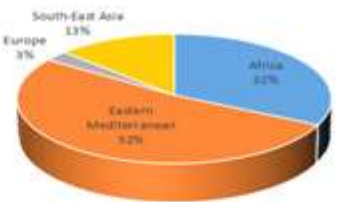
- **Participation** - 87% active (167/194)
  - **Assignments :**
    - Individual assignments: Week 1 to Week 7, 74% (average submission rate)
    - End of course MCQs (submission deadline in 2 weeks): ¼ already submitted
    - Final research protocol (submission deadline in 1 month)
  - **Google Groups** - active participation
  - **Webinars** - 117 peak attendance for Webinar 1, 76 peak attendance for Webinar 2 and 59 peak attendance for Webinar 3
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# Course highlights



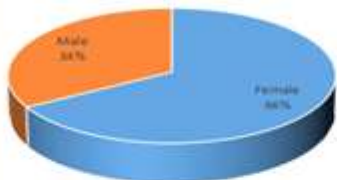
## PARTICIPANTS BY REGION

Participants by Regions



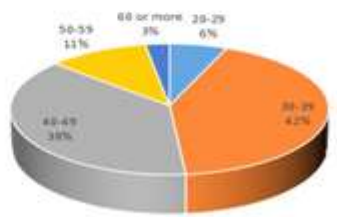
## PARTICIPANTS: GENDER

Participants by Genders



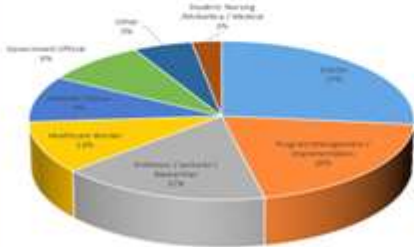
## PARTICIPANTS: AGE GROUP

Participants by Age Groups



## PARTICIPANTS: PROFESSION

Participants by Professions





# Reflections: Participants



## **Elizabeth Msoka-Bright (Tanzania)**

“My name is Elizabeth Msoka-Bright, am a PhD student in the Health System and Policy Research perspective. I am employed by Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC), located in Kilimanjaro Clinical research Institute (KCRI) and am studying at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMUCo), Kilimanjaro, Moshi-Tanzania

.....All of the topics were interesting and relevant to us as professionals. Currently we have gained confidence in writing, communication skills, searching skills, thinking skills, example: in this course I have gained skills in thought organisation, evaluating, memory recall and theorising which helps me in my scientific writing journey...

....GFMER course positively impacted us with knowledge and understanding of sexual and reproductive health research, which we will apply in our professional work, academic and clinical, as well as it has strengthened our research capacity. This knowledge gain will result in reducing mortality and morbidity related to sexual Reproductive diseases among our people with focus in women and girl child in our countries, Sub Saharan Africa and the world at large.”

## **Ketsela Desalegn (Ethiopia)**

“My name is Ketsela Desalegn, a MD with PH background and currently working for Pathfinder. My gratitude goes to my organization for allowing and sponsoring me and my colleagues to take this important training on RM and RPD on SRH.”

“I thank very much GFMER for placing such a team of very energetic, knowledgeable, pragmatic and experienced PH professionals as our coaches to facilitate the courses, assist and accompany us through the courses; tirelessly reviewed our assignments, provided scientific feedbacks and recommendations in our research topics.”

The training course, as I see it, is an effectively designed, conducive, gap filler, short course training for the common PH professional from low- and middle-income countries.”

## **Takele Gezahegn Demie (Ethiopia)**

My name is Takele Gezahegn Demie from Ethiopia. I am an academician and a researcher. Currently, I am working for St. Paul’s Hospital Millennium Medical College, here in Addis Ababa. I had benefited a lot personally and obtained the intended and necessary knowledge of research methodology and how to develop research protocols and improve my scientific writing. Hopefully, all other participants were benefited in this regard. The course was very well organized into thematic areas. The course contents were also very interesting and crucial for us. The study slides and talking points were very nice. All the reference documents, accompanying documents and other audio-visual materials were very interesting and welcoming....

Since Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights are broad concepts and SRH issues are unfinished agendas, I think we can perform research on the subject with the current knowledge and skill we obtained from this course. The training course also helped us to improve our scientific writing. I believe the training course met its aim very well.

I also recommend this training course for other interested health care professionals to improve their knowledge and skills towards research methodology and research protocol development including scientific writing.....”

# Reflections: Coaches



## **Namakau Nyambe (Zambia)**

“My name is Namakau Nyambe, I am Zambian and reside in Zambia. I work for the university of North Carolina at chapel hill as a project manager. Managing research projects around treatment and diagnosis of cervical pre-cancer.

I am happy to say that I am a proud product of the GFMER Sexual and Reproductive Health Research Methodology intake of 2015. I have been a coach since 2016/17 and I have assisted with coaching participants from Zambia and other counties in the Sub-Saharan region.

The importance of this course as well as other courses provider by GFMER cannot be over emphasized. Most developing countries cannot afford to provide or sponsor training for continuous education for health workers/ providers. Continuous Education is important for public health workers/ or health care providers. As this is a way in which new knowledge in terms of new trends in the health sector is gained. The importance of training health workers in research methodology cannot be over emphasized too. Health research is very cardinal for global health. Developing countries face many challenges which make it difficult for health research. One of the eminent barriers to research is lack of training in research among health workers.....

Having been a coach for GFMER for quite a few years, I have seen the hunger for knowledge and the hunger to find answers to some of the health challenges being faced in the participant’s home countries. GFMER has made available this knowledge through the research methodology course which participants need to undertake research and so find answers/ solutions to very important questions/ health challenges. I take this opportunity to commend GFMER staff and foundation for the honorable and noble work which they are doing. To the GFMER RM course participants Continue to build up on the knowledge which you have acquired. You have been equipped, be bold and go and execute.”

## **Mongal Singh Gurung (Bhutan)**

“...Thank you all for the great opportunity to be part of this great learning, unlearning and relearning platform offered by the GFMER and its partners.

We all know that there are “n” number of online courses offered by “n” number of institutions/organizations. However, in my experience and observation, the GFMER courses have some special unique features as compared to other online courses. One of the unique features of the GFMER courses is that the resource persons are usually the reputed experts working for the World Health Organization HQ and other international health organizations/institutions. These experts are not only academically sound but they often have the practical experiences to share from the real-world problems from across the globe. Similarly, participants are diverse, often from all parts of the globe. As a result, on top of the course materials, we get to learn about the different health systems, challenges, and ideas from many countries and regions of the world.

In terms of participants, I have observed that the participants are very proactive. Some of the participants in my group personally came to me for clarifications/discussion while a few others called me for the same. I have yet another important observation. I found out from the participants in my group that all participants want to carry out the study on the protocol that is being developed as part of this course. In this light, I feel it would be very interesting to carry out a study especially on the proportion of participants who actually carry out the study on the protocol developed as part of this course.....”



# Reflections:

## Course resource persons



### 1. Dr Jane Hirst

Senior Fellow in Perinatal Health and Consultant Obstetrician at the Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health, University of Oxford, UK. She is also a Future Leaders Fellow at UKRI (UK Research and Innovation) and an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at The George Institute for Global Health, UK.

### 2. Dr. Khalifa Elmusharaf, GFMER Country coordinator, Sudan

Senior Lecturer in Public Health and Director of Public Health Master Programme, School of Medicine – University of Limerick, Ireland

### 3. Jose Luis Garnica Carreño, Library, World Health Organisation

### 4. Tomas Allen, Library, World Health Organisation

## Points from speeches:

- Put knowledge into practice
- Capacity building – Use knowledge acquired to build capacity in countries
- Connect with each other – networking important for knowledge sharing and professional advancement



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## FINAL WORDS: GFMER

Mrs Fionna Poon the GFMER course administrator spoke to participants about what to expect after the course with respect to:

- Course evaluation – for participants and coaches
  - Course completion certificate
  - Upcoming GFMER courses- ASRH EMRO 2022, ASRH French version, FP 2022
  - GFMER membership
  - Picture of the week
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# Pictures

