

Scaling up Public Health Education in Africa through e-learning: The Peoples-uni



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Introduction

- Improving the health of populations requires the creation and application of evidence to health policies and interventions
- This can only be applied by an educated Public Health workforce
- There is large need for Public Health capacity in Low- to middle-income countries (LMICs)
- Peoples-uni was established in 2008 to help build such Public Health capacity



Peoples-uni background

- Registered as a charity in the UK in 2008
- There are no physical offices – all activity is online through the Internet
- Trustees, IT group, Tutors, Education officers (all volunteers – around 150 active people currently)
- Volunteer tutors come from more than 40 countries
- Use of volunteers and Open Educational Resources allows this to be offered at very low cost



Open Educational Resources, open source educational delivery via the Internet, volunteer faculty

Course modules, certificate, diploma in
Public Health, MPH

Skills for Public
Health practitioners

Collaboration
across countries

Improve
health of the
public

Career
development for
practitioners

Best
practice



Course-modules description

- Courses are based on the concept of open education resources (OER), freely available on the Internet.
- Course modules in two groups - the '**Foundation Sciences of Public Health**' and '**Public Health problems**'.
- 5 Topics for each module, with a set of resources
- Discussion forum for the exchange of ideas and the exploration of concepts between students and the tutor
- Assessment made by the submission of assignments designed to see if the competences have been achieved



Course-modules description (cont'd)

- Use of best practice e-learning, with online facilitation by volunteer tutors and guide for facilitators
- Two Semesters a year, with a timetable for each module of 5 Topics run over two weeks
- 1 to 2 modules/ semester
- Individual modules for CPD; 4 modules for Certificate; 6 for Diploma; for Masters add a Dissertation. All modules at Masters level and carry 20 credits

Groups of modules

Foundation Sciences of PH

- Biostatistics
- Evidence Based Practice
- Evaluation of Interventions
- Health Economics
- Health Promotion
- Inequalities & the Social Determinants of Health
- Introduction to Epidemiology
- Public Health Concepts for Policy Makers

Public Health problems

- Communicable Disease [transmission, surveillance and control]
- Disaster Management & Emergency Planning
- HIV/AIDS
- Maternal Mortality
- Non-Communicable Disease - CVD & Diabetes
- Preventing Child Mortality
- Public Health Nutrition

Student data

(from data on application form)

□ Educational experience

- Medical degree: 438
- Other Health qualification: 420
- Health qualification, non degree: 132
- Other non-health degree: 309
- No degree: 9
- Postgraduate degree (in addition to any above): 338

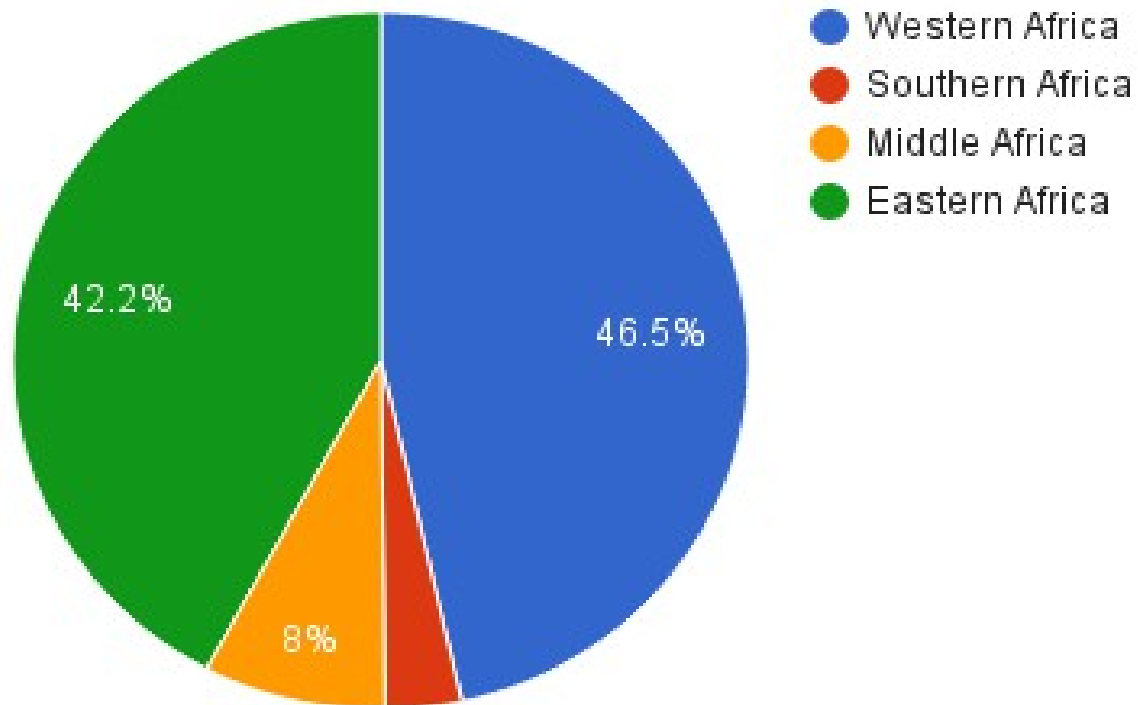
□ Current occupation

- Public Health worker: 537
- Clinical (not specifically Public Health): 332
- Academic: 94
- Non-health: 52
- Not employed: 66
- Student: 39

Some student numbers to 2015

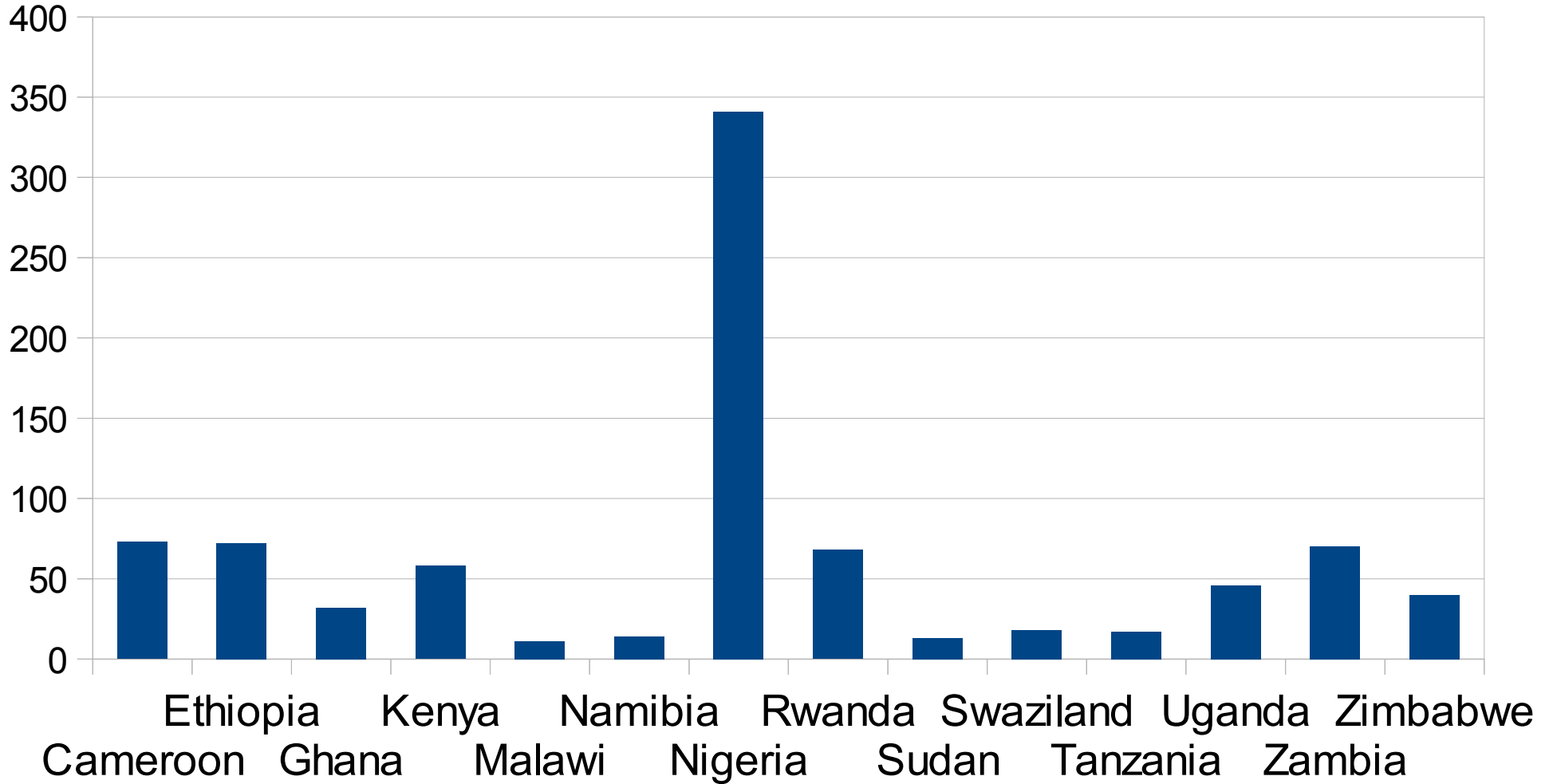
- Numbers enrolled: 1283
- From Africa: 924
- From Indian subcontinent: 168
- Others from Asia, Middle East, Europe

African Region of Peoples-uni students



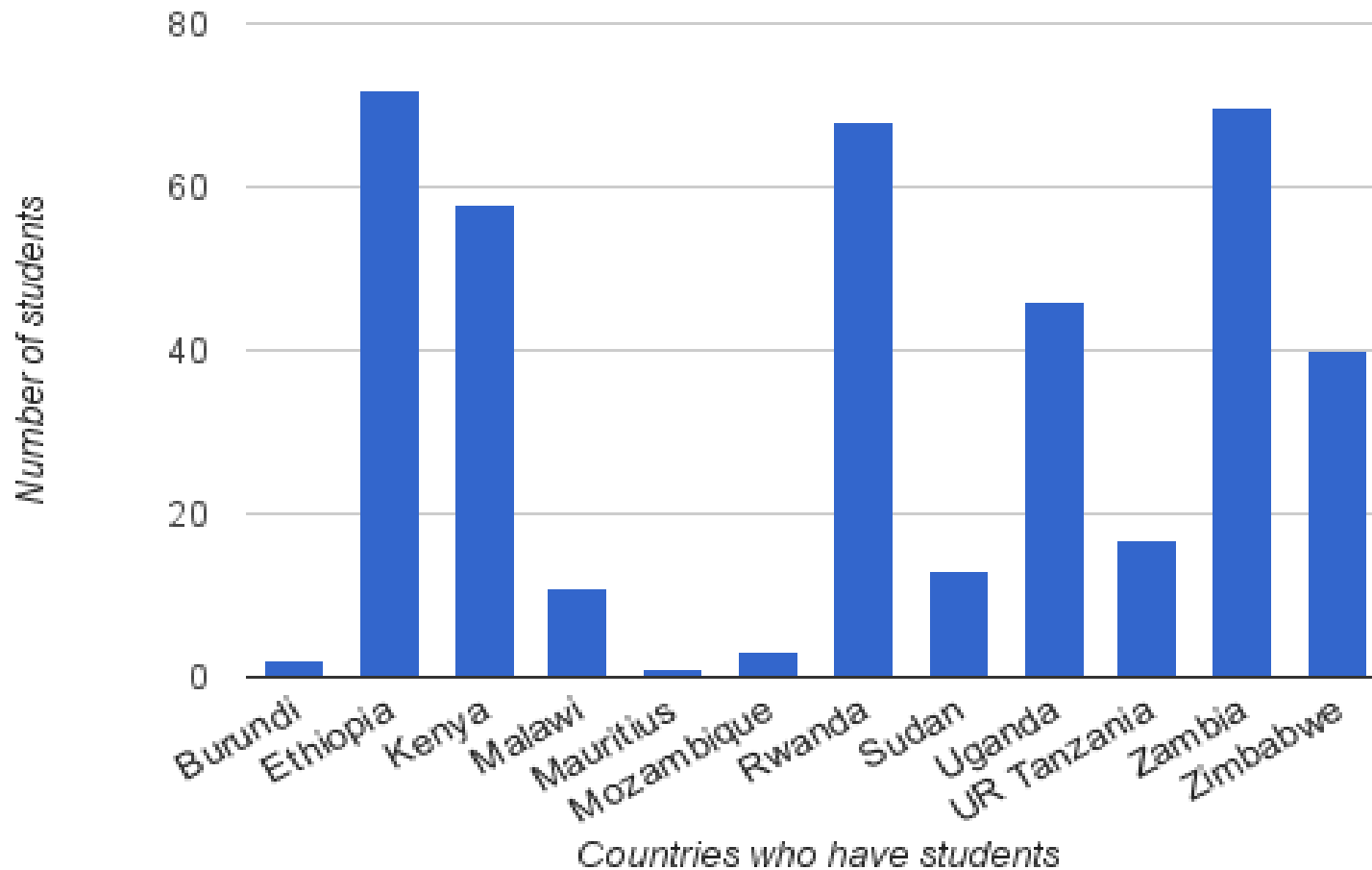
African countries with at least 10

Peoples-uni students



East African countries with Peoples-uni students

Countries in Eastern Africa with Peoples-uni students



MPH award

- A partnership with a UK Universities has allowed 80 students to graduate with an MPH from them, based on study with Peoples-uni
- We seek local African partner Universities for similar collaboration

Example: Rwanda

- 5 students have graduated with the MPH
 - 1 with distinction, 2 with merit
- 2 more are due to graduate later in 2015
 - All 7 are actively working health professionals
- The Ministry of Health has sponsored a small cohort of hospital directors to join the course – 3 are due to graduate with the MPH later in 2015 and a further 2 are continuing in the course



Quality

- Builds on previous experience with e-learning
- Focus on competences and outcomes
- Template for course development and delivery to ensure consistency
- Open Educational Resources and online links from credible organisations
- Peer review and training of facilitators
- Accreditation by other organisations being sought (European agency and other professional bodies)
- At the end, quality will be assessed by the competences demonstrated by graduates



Some current developments

- **Alumni**

Peoples-uni graduates have joined an Alumni group to continue to work towards improving the health of their populations, including collaborative research

- **Institutional partnerships**

We seek African University partners to offer joint awards and collaborate with Peoples-uni and its Alumni in developing new courses and building Public Health capacity. We welcome all collaboration, ideas, and suggestions!

THANK YOU!!!!!!