NIHR CRIBS: Capacity. Research. Innovation. Building maternity Systems in Sierra Leone

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NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

1 MATERNAL HEALTH RESEARCH

Simple and scalable innovations to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality

NIHR CRIBS is a **multidisciplinary** group that builds on research partnerships spanning the last 6 years, formalising the partnership between King's College London and the University of Sierra Leone, and brings many **collaborators** including the Ministry of Health & Sanitation, iNGO Welbodi Partnership, the National Emergency Medical Services, community based solutions NGO Lifeline Nehemiah Project, the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences and the Midwifery Schools.

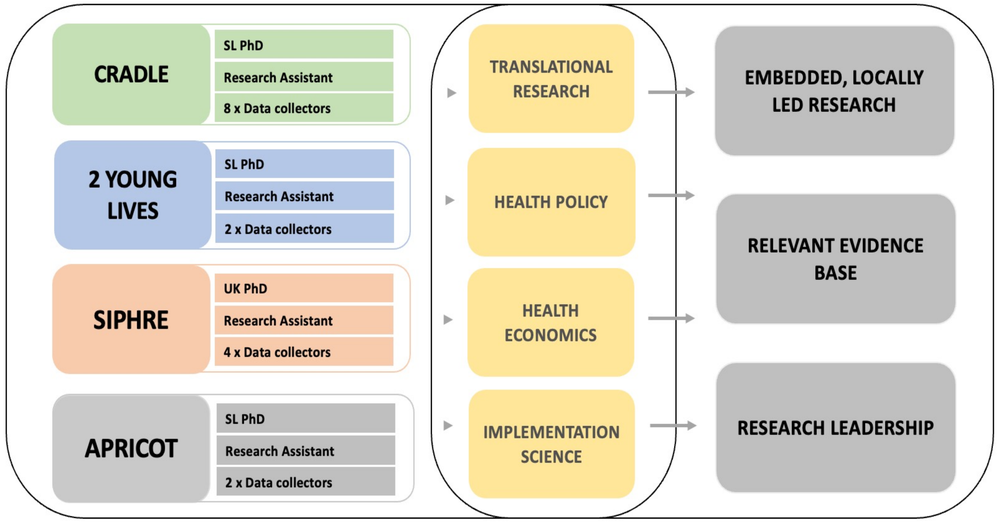
We have co-developed a programme of work addressing locally identified maternal health challenges using pilot data to inform assumptions and feasibility.

CRADLE: A stepped-wedge, hybrid implementation-effectiveness randomised controlled trial to determine the impact of CRADLE using a composite mortality and admission primary outcome (5% prevalence), with the aim of providing a blueprint for scale-up worldwide.

2 YOUNG LIVES: A randomised cluster trial to determine the feasibility and implementation of 2 Young Lives, a teenage pregnancy mentorship scheme addressing the social factors of stigma, abandonment and poor maternal health outcomes.

SIPHRE: An evaluation of shock index as a predictor of morbidity in women with bleeding or infection.

APRICOT: Validation of a point-of-care creatinine device, with the aim of developing an accurate, feasible test of acute kidney injury, a preventable cause of maternal morbidity and mortality.



2 CAPACITY BUILDING

Research capacity and expertise at individual, institutional and national levels

Building research capacity and expertise at **individual, institutional and national level** is one of the **main work-stream** of CRIBS. We are working together to support 3 PhD students, 3 masters in public health students and more than 20 early career researchers, plus opportunities for training and development. On 31st Mar 2022, **more than 60 participants** (e.g. nurses, midwifes, M&E staff, data collectors, nutritionists, pharmacists, research assistants, public health staff, CHOs, doctors) attended our course **'Designing Clinical Research'**, with an opportunity to develop their own ideas into a research proposal which can be submitted for the competitive awarding of seed funding. **Watch this space!!**

2 Young Lives girls, babies and toddlers in Eastern Freetown

Jumping on with data collector Bundu from Karene

Sister Betty Sam & Mangenda Kamara, gender expert & upcoming CRIBS PhD student

Paul Kpaka, Eric N'Dolenge, Daniel Jah, three of the APRICOT/SIPHRE data collectors at PCMH

First day of training for the new CRADLE 5 team

Conclusion: The CRIBS Global Research Group will develop and implement **simple, scalable innovations to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality** and build **research capacity** and research expertise and **leadership** in Sierra Leone.