

African Population Cohort Consortium

Request for Proposals, Information Webinars 15 & 21 April 2021



Outline

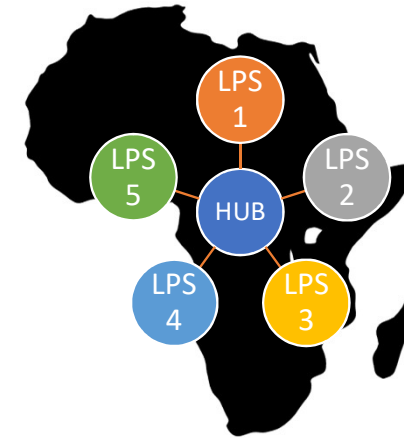
1. APCC: the need & the opportunity
2. Request for Proposals to run the Formative phase of APCC
3. Questions

The need



1. African problems need African solutions, led by African scientists
 - Triple burden of infectious disease, NCDs and malnutrition
2. Understanding of health and social outcomes hindered by not exploring the full range of human diversity
 - Africa is most diverse continent on earth – genomic, cultural, social, environmental
 - Current absence of large scale population based data
3. Covid19 shown need for political and scientific cooperation stretching far beyond national borders
 - And shown that this cooperation is possible

The opportunity



- Address the specific disease burden in Africa and inform African-specific interventions to improve health and social outcomes
- Utilise the unique diversity of the Continent to enable world-leading discovery research “for Africa and the world”
- Enable African scientists to lead the next phase of discovery science and be the ones who bring this critical new knowledge to the world
- Leverage existing infrastructure and capacity in Africa to maximise and accelerate health and social returns

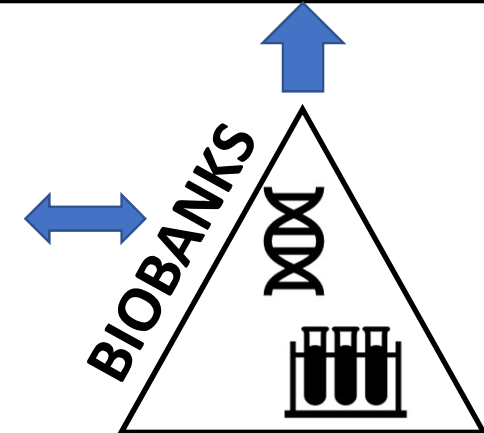
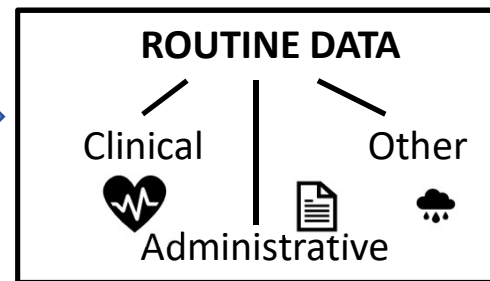
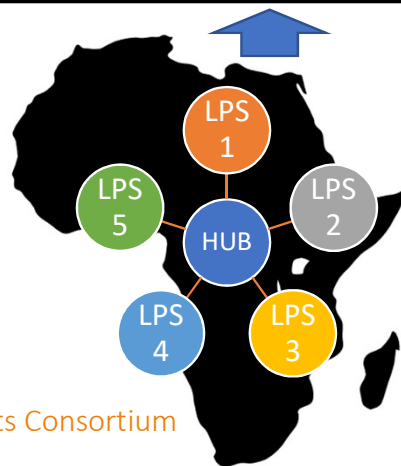
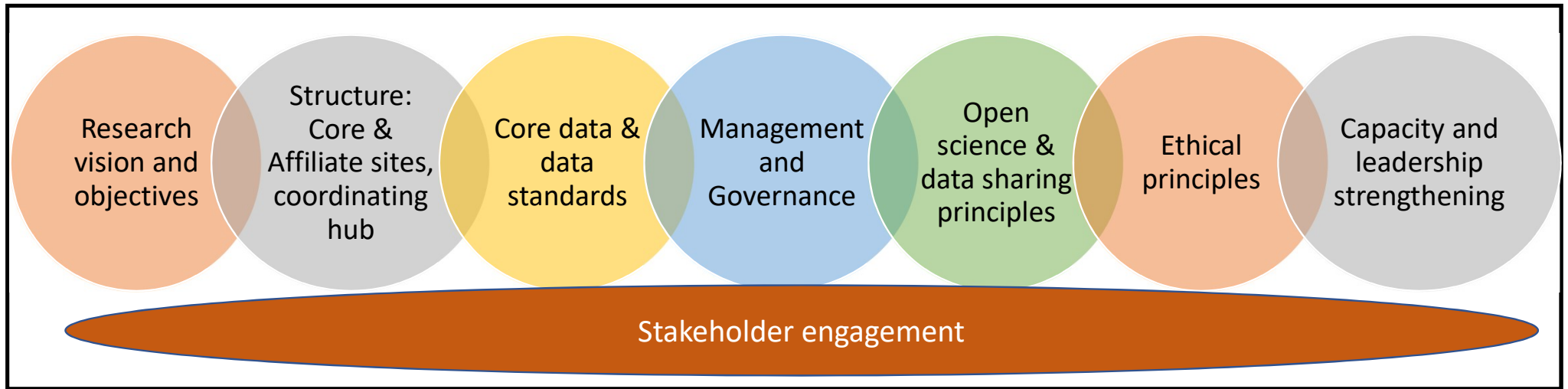
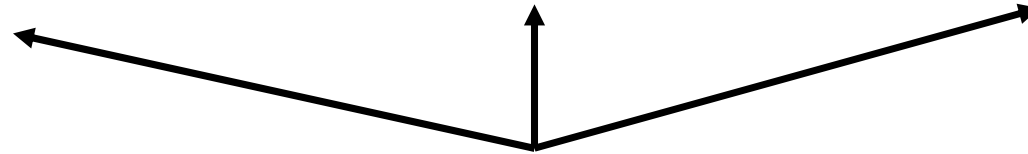
VISION: Large scale data from Africa is used to change policy and practice to improve health and social outcomes, to contribute towards achieving the SDGs, and to strengthen African-led science.

Mechanism: population data platform - network of large longitudinal population studies including biobanks linked to routine health, social and environmental data where possible.

DISCOVERY

SURVEILLANCE/SDG

**POLICY /
INTERVENTIONS**



Phase 1: Scoping phase

March – December 2020

Phase 2: Formative phase

Jan 2021 – March/June 2023

Phase 3: Implementation

2023 - onwards

Wellcome Trust
approves funding for
formative phase

- Funders decide on investment for APCC
- Establish funding partnerships

Engagement with new funders

Consultation:

- Steering Group of African scientists representing broad range of scientific disciplines
- Uganda Scoping meeting (March 2020)
- Cross-Wellcome working group
- International funders' group

Outcomes:

- APCC Scoping Report: rationale, broad scientific vision and high level structure

Open call Research Proposals:

- **African-led** organisation and/or Consortium (researchers, policy makers)
- **Timescale:** 15-18 months
- **Outcome:** blueprint of APCC

Open call for APCC sites
with an initial pilot
phase

Outcome: Successful
sites start Consortium

Request for Proposals to run the Formative phase

Formative phase

Purpose: design the blueprint for what APCC will achieve, how it will be structured, and how much it will cost.

- African-led organisation and/or Consortium (researchers, policy makers, etc.)
- Timescale: 15-18 months
- Outcome: blueprint of APCC

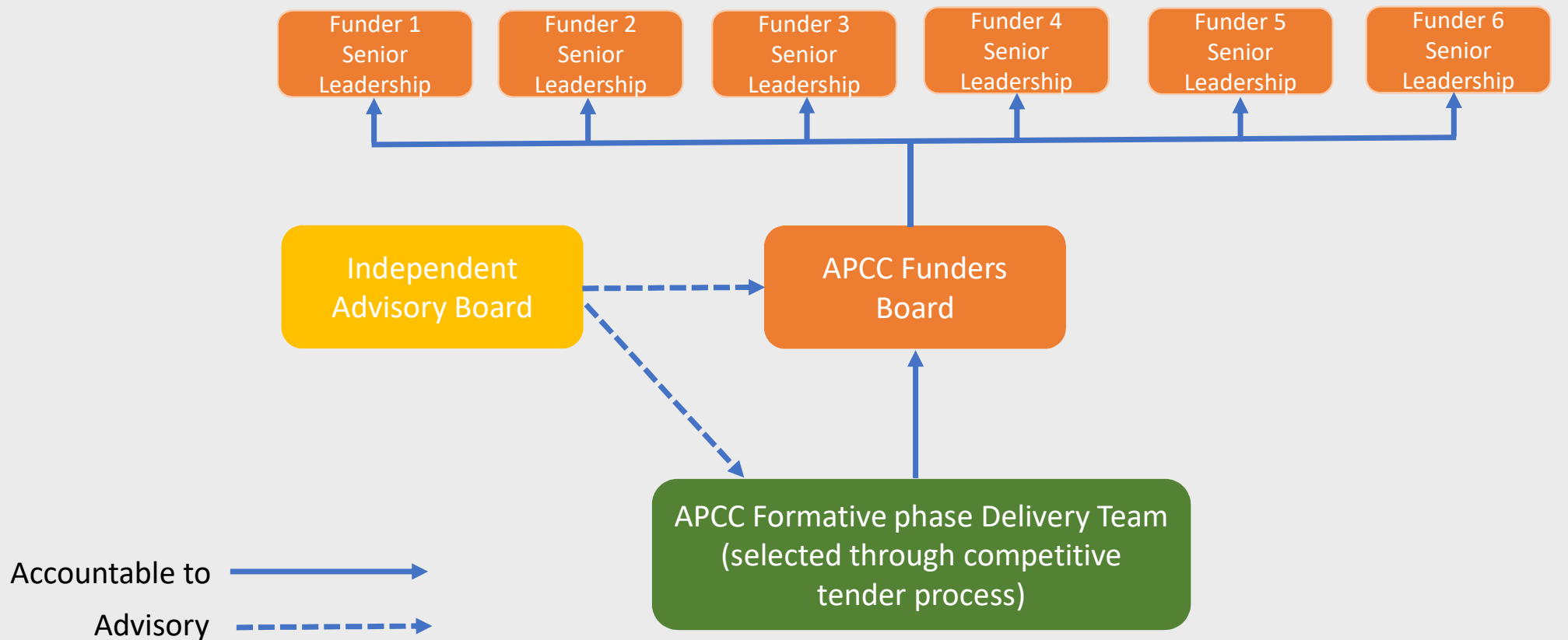
APCC blueprint (1)

- **Research vision and objectives:**
 - focus research vision in Scoping report on smaller set of ambitious yet feasible objectives
 - finalise research domains and cross-cutting themes
 - agree core data for each research domain
 - develop framework to ensure translation and policy uptake
- **Stakeholder engagement:** engage diverse range of APCC stakeholders at an early stage to ensure that all relevant groups meaningfully co-develop the blueprint and later implement APCC
- **Link to relevant current and new initiatives in Africa and globally**
- **Structure and components of APCC:**
 - Individual LPS Core and Affiliate sites
 - Coordinating Hub(s)
 - Biobanks and 'omics platform
 - Data linkages

APCC blueprint (2)

- Governance and management structure of APCC
- Open Science and data sharing, and ethical principles
- Capacity and leadership platform that makes best use of APCC infrastructure to develop, strengthen and retain research, policy and translational skills in Africa; leverage existing initiatives avoiding duplication
- Evaluation framework and audit criteria
- Risks and mitigation strategies
- Cost estimates to establish within each of the above items the 'minimum viable product' to get APCC off the ground and the costs of add-on projects. Provide long-term sustainability plans which should include national and local political buy-in
- Branding materials (including a new name?)

Formative phase - proposed Governance structure



Process



Expressions of Interest (EoI) criteria

deadline 14 May 2021

1. Applicants: African-led, multidisciplinary and diverse team
 - inclusive and diverse teams with broad geographical representation will be rated more highly
 - population data science expertise is a requirement
 - expertise of successfully delivering complex and highly collaborative initiatives
2. High level summary of how the team will approach delivering the formative phase as specified in the Request for Proposals (RFP)
3. Non-binding cost estimate: detail of eligible costs in RFP document

Aims of the shortlisting

- To identify the Eols that reach minimum expectations and demonstrate potential to deliver the formative phase
- Identify specific gaps that can be successfully addressed in a full application. Applicants will be asked to address any identified gaps in the full application.

Full application criteria

deadline 12 August 2021 (invited applicants only)

1. Applicants: African-led, multidisciplinary and diverse team, expertise of successfully delivering complex and highly collaborative initiatives
1. Strength of the proposed approach to deliver the requirements set out in the RFP:
 - Proposal responds to all elements of the RFP
 - Stakeholder engagement, demonstrate co-production of APCC's blueprint
 - Appropriateness of methods used: use of best practice and encourage innovation
 - Identify any gaps we have not covered in the RFP
2. Costs: value for money
 - Proposal is appropriately costed and feasible
 - All costs are justified

Timelines

	Date
RFP – call launch	18 March 2021
Information Webinars and Q&A	15 April 2021, 15:00-16:30 BST 21 April 2021, 10:30-12:00 BST
Deadline to submit questions	29 April 2021, 16:00 BST
Submission of Expression of Interest (Eoi) deadline	14 May 2021, 16:00 BST
Invitation to submit full proposal	w/c 07 June 2021
Full application deadline (invited applicants only)	12 August 2021, 16:00 BST
RFP Evaluation Period	Aug/Sep 2021
Applicants' Interviews by the Advisory Committee*	Oct 2021(dates TBC)
Funders Decision	Oct 2021 (dates TBC)
Notification of Contract Award	Oct 2021 (dates TBC)
Contract Negotiation	Oct/Nov 2021
Contract Start Date	From Nov 2021

Questions
