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1. Commonwealth Pharmacists Association
2. Tropical Health & Education Trust

Background

The Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) is an initiative funded by the UK Department for Health and Social Care's Fleming Fund and managed by the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) and the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET). Its main goal is to enhance the capabilities of health institutions and workforce in Commonwealth countries, especially those in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), in addressing the challenges of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through health partnerships with the UK. Since its launch in 2019, the programme has supported over 30 UK-LMIC health partnerships implementing antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) and infection prevention and control (IPC) projects across eight African countries. The first phase of the programme (CwPAMS-1), implemented in 2019/2021, delivered AMS/IPC projects across Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. An extension of the programme (CwPAMS-1.5), in 2021/2022, provided opportunities for further work and expansion to Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Currently, phase 2 of the programme (CwPAMS-2) is running across all 8 countries.

Aim

To assess CwPAMS effectiveness in strengthening antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) and infection prevention and control (IPC) capacities in participating LMICs in CwPAMS-1 and 1.5.

Method

A total of 20 AMS/IPC monitoring and evaluation indicators were created and quantitatively measured to assess the success and impact of each partnership in the context of AMS and IPC. Indicators included, for example, the number of LMIC healthcare staff trained in AMS/IPC and demonstrating improved knowledge after training compared to and before; demographic information was also collected. Data collected were analysed using Microsoft Excel. As a service evaluation, no ethical approval was required.

Results

During CwPAMS-1 and 1.5, 19 UK-LMIC partnerships were established to deliver 26 health-related project (Fig 1 and 2).

Training of healthcare staff

Over 6,500 LMIC healthcare staff, including 749 pharmacists, were trained across the 8 partner countries: Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia.

- ❖ CwPAMS-1: 3,324 LMIC healthcare staff trained (407 pharmacists)
- ❖ CwPAMS-1.5: Further 3,432 LMIC healthcare staff trained (342 pharmacists)

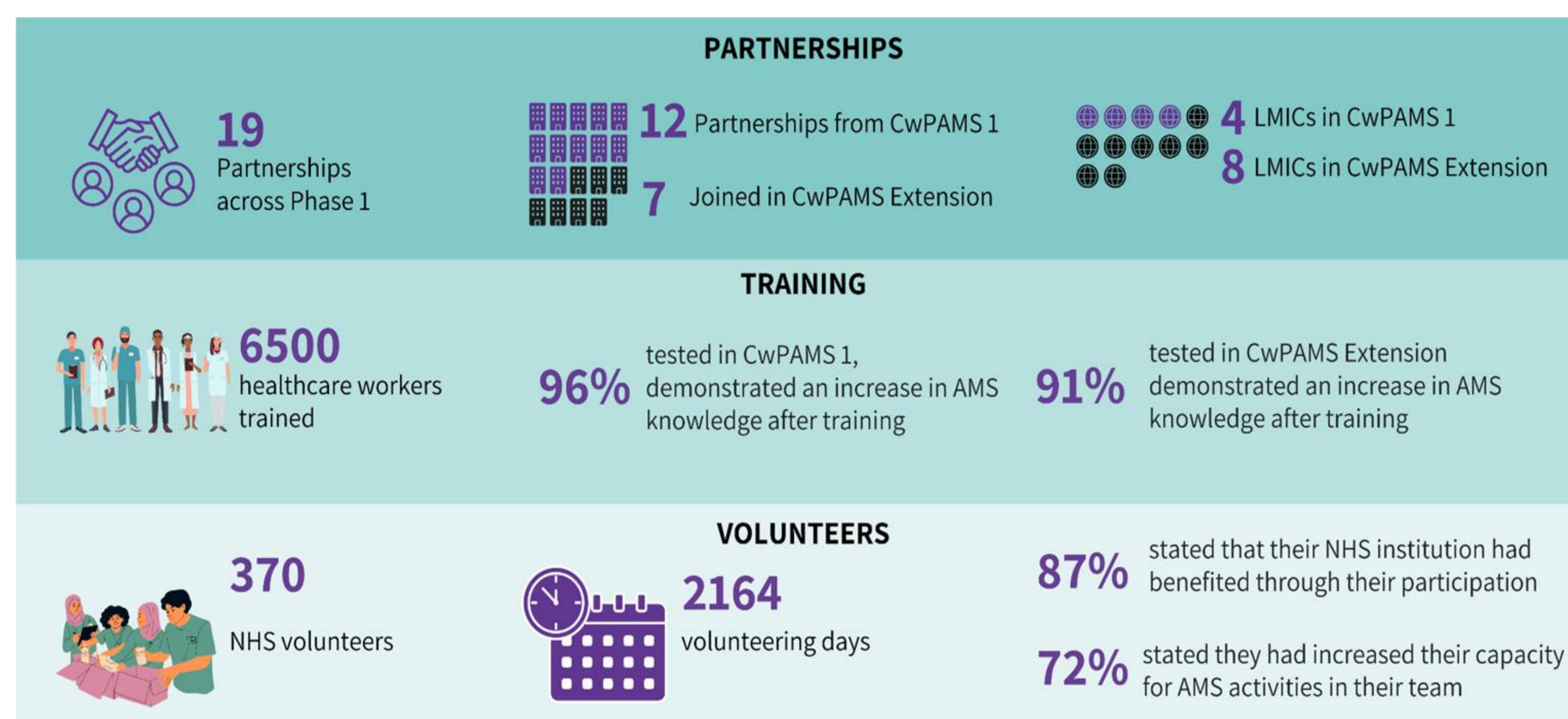


Figure 1: Programme overview of CwPAMS-1 and CwPAMS-1.5

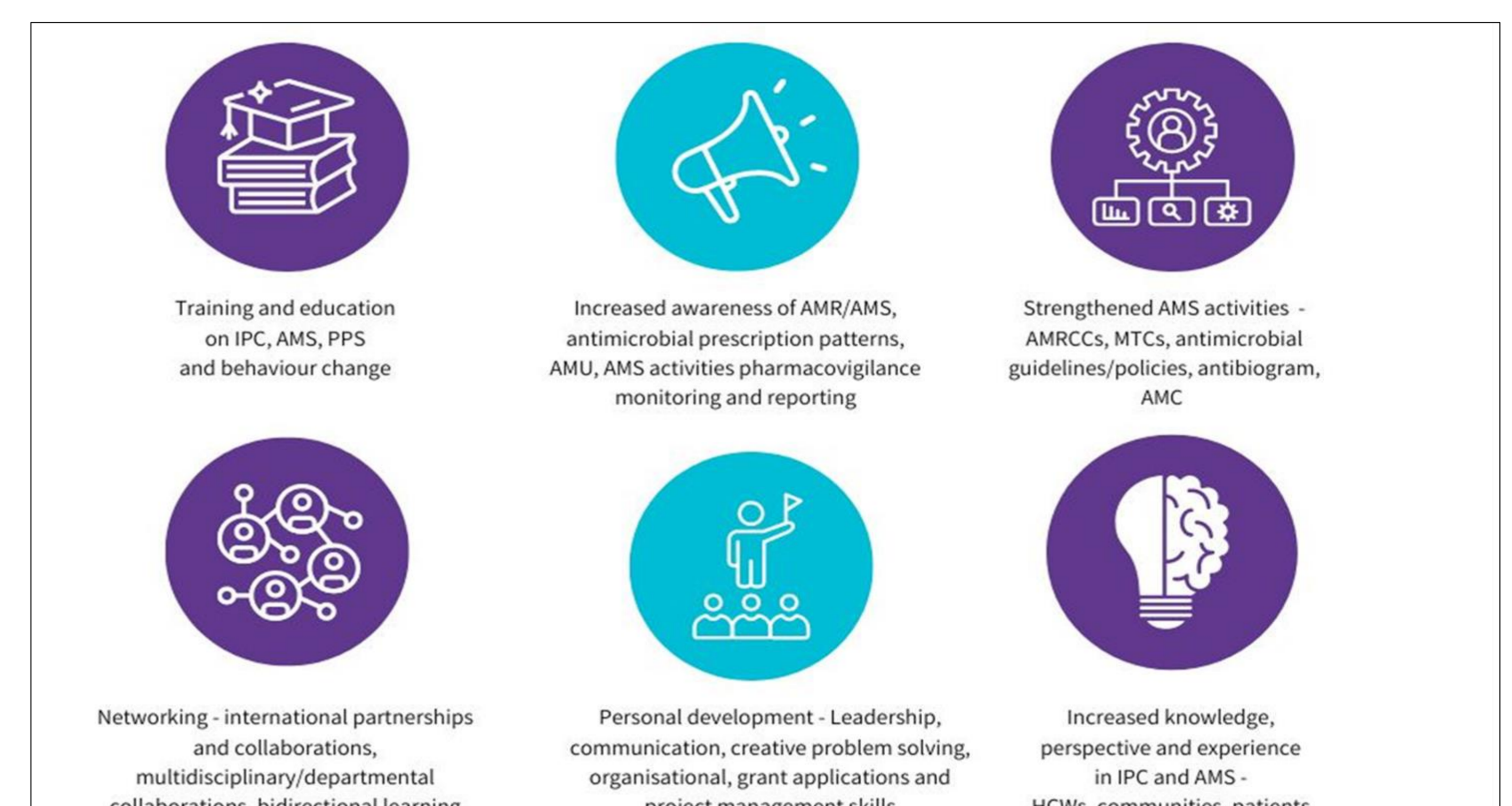


Figure 2: Top 6 key benefits to organisations through CwPAMS.

Capacity and Capability Building

LMICs: Over 90% of healthcare staff reported an increase in knowledge and awareness of AMS, prescribing, and consumption surveillance: 96% of LMIC healthcare staff in CwPAMS-1, and 91% in CwPAMS-1.5. In CwPAMS-1.5, 76% also increased their knowledge and awareness of IPC principles (not measured in CwPAMS-1).

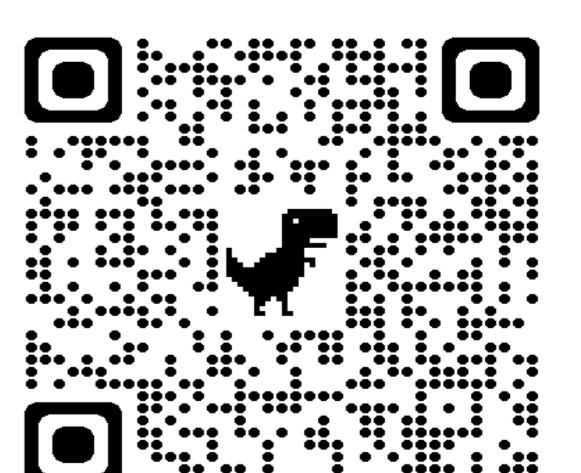
UK: CwPAMS created capacity-building opportunities for 370 UK volunteers, with 87% indicating that their NHS institution had benefited through their participation in CwPAMS; additionally, 72% of UK volunteers stated that their teams had seen increased capacity for AMS activities.

Conclusion

The CwPAMS programme contributed to health system strengthening against AMR across 8 LMICs who have partnering institutions in the UK. The next phase of the CwPAMS programme has been rolled out in March 2023 and has established 24 UK-LMIC health partnerships focusing on AMS/IPC initiatives.

Acknowledgements

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