The Africa Multimorbidity Alliance

The Africa Multimorbidity Alliance is community of practice made up of researchers, practitioners, and others with a stake in multimorbidity research in Africa. The Alliance was established as a light touch way to enable individuals and groups working on multimorbidity across the continent to optimise synergies through sharing resources, learning from each other's work, identifying outstanding challenges, and building a shared agenda.

The Alliance responds to growing recognition of the need for holistic, integrated, and equitable research to inform policy and practice in this rapidly advancing field. As such, the Alliance draws together members from a broad range of disciplines and perspectives, including social scientists, clinical and public health researchers, practicing clinicians and allied professions, policymakers, and other stakeholders. The Alliance emphasises inclusivity and equity, recognising the need for multimorbidity research to build upon and strengthen local research capacity as well as to integrate with national and regional priorities, agendas, and systems.

The Alliance was established following an interdisciplinary workshop in Blantyre, Malawi in June 2022 that drew together disciplinary and regional expertise from across sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop considered different disciplinary perspectives on multimorbidity and identified obstacles, enablers, and opportunities for a more integrated working (proceedings available here). Participants agreed to take forward the insights, collaboration, and shared learning through the Africa Multimorbidity Alliance. A list of institutions represented in the founding of the Alliance is provided below.

Alliance activities

- ***Knowledge exchange and networking.*** A biannual virtual meeting will be held to enable members to keep in touch, discuss developments, and explore synergies. Taking as a starting point information gathered in Blantyre, a spreadsheet will be created and updated containing contact details, project information, dataset info/links, and other relevant resources. An email listserv will be established to facilitate communication.

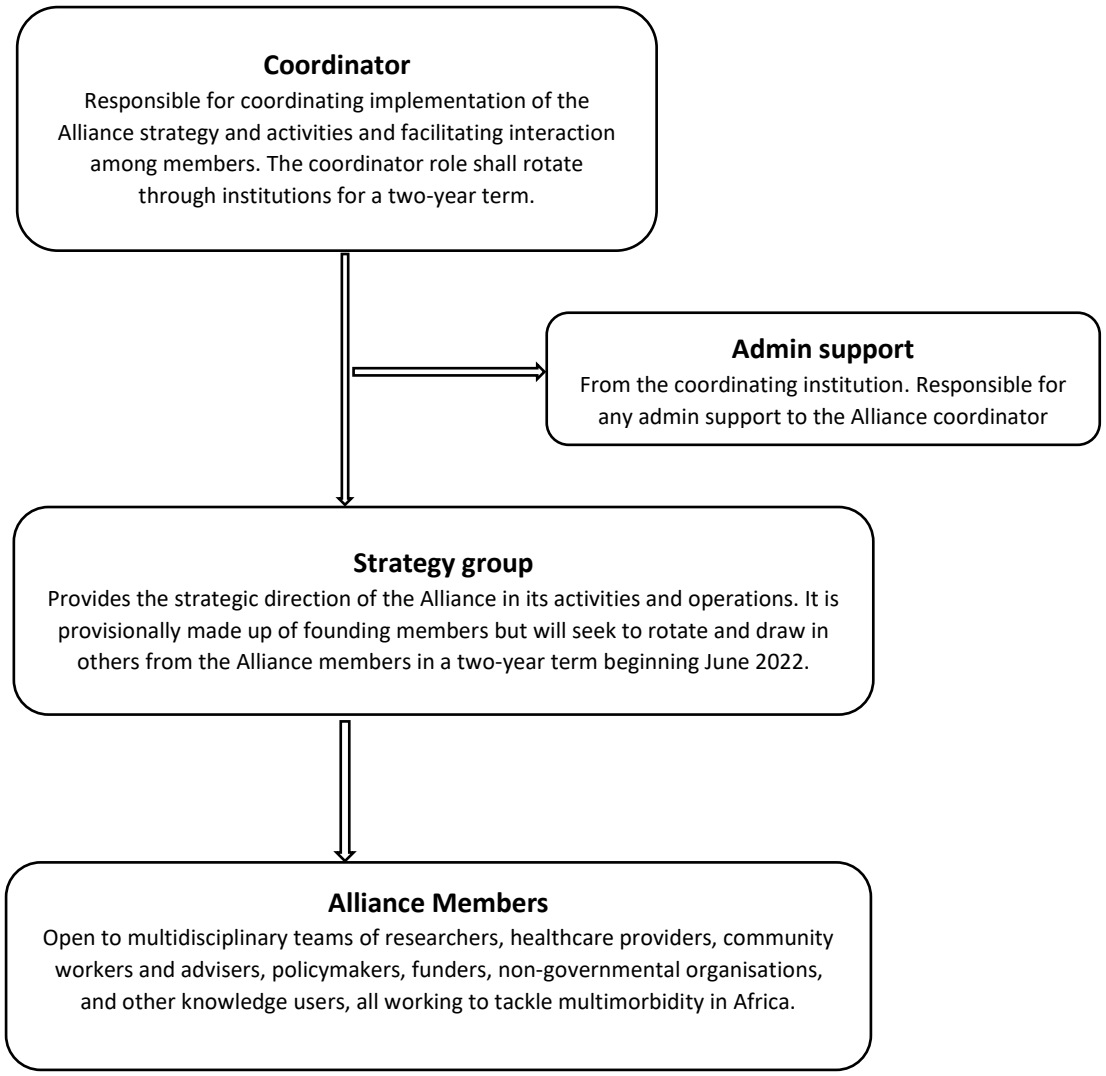
- ***Collaborative writing.*** The Alliance will further serve as a platform for exploring opportunities for collaborative writing across ongoing research projects and programmes. Several working groups were established following the Blantyre workshop, which will continue working towards collaborative research outputs. The formation of further working groups will be explored through ongoing engagements.

- ***Hybrid events in Africa.*** We will identify standing meetings in Africa that can be used as an opportunity for getting together in person, externally sharing our work, and drawing interest for further membership. Hybrid options will be prioritised to enable attendance of those unable to participate in person.

- ***Grants for research, training, and capacity building.*** The Alliance will finally be used as a platform for future research, training, and capacity development grants. Through the Alliance, members will be able to identify potential collaborators with relevant expertise and experience and, where possible, receive guidance and support in grant writing. Grant proposals will be among the standing items at the biannual meeting.

- **Funding to support the Alliance.** Additional funding will be sought to support the administrative and logistical functions of the Alliance.

Structure of the Alliance



Founding Institutions within the Alliance

- Achikondi Women and Community Friendly Health Services, Malawi
- Biomedical Research and Training Institute, Zimbabwe
- Brain and Mind Institute, Aga Khan University, Kenya
- Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA
- Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Malawi
- Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute, Moshi, Tanzania
- King's College London, London, UK
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool, UK
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK
- Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit, Malawi
- Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme, Malawi
- Malawi Ministry of Health, Malawi
- Malawi NCD Alliance, Malawi
- Makerere University, Uganda
- Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
- South African Medical Research Council, South Africa
- South African National Bioinformatics Institute, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
- Teeside University, Middlesborough, UK
- University College London, London, UK
- University of Bristol, Bristol, UK
- University of Cape Town, South Africa
- University of Exeter, Exeter, UK
- University of Ghana Medical School, Ghana
- University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, UK
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- University of Kinshasa, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
- University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- University of Leicester, Leicester, UK
- University of Newcastle, Newcastle, Australia
- University of The Witwatersrand, South Africa
- University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe

Contact information

For more information about the Alliance, including on how to join our community, please contact Felix Limbani (flimbani@mlw.mw) or Justin Dixon (justin.dixon@lshtm.ac.uk).