



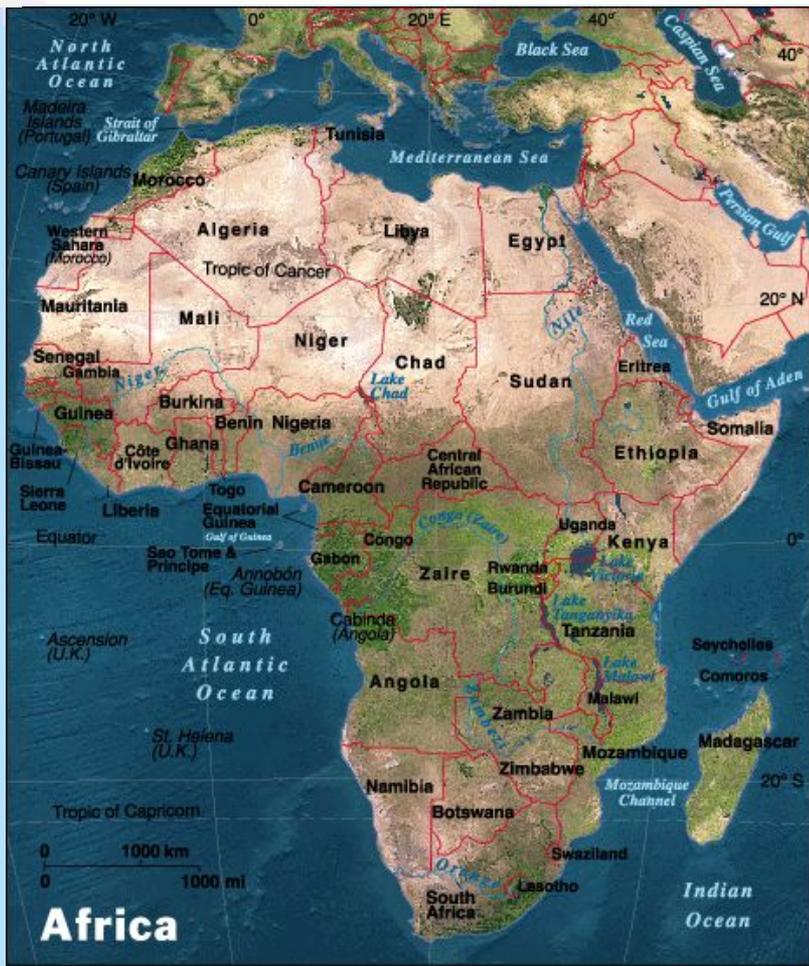
Education and Training of Medical Physicists in Africa - Role of FAMPO



Francis Hasford
Chair, E&T Committee
FAMPO



Data of Africa



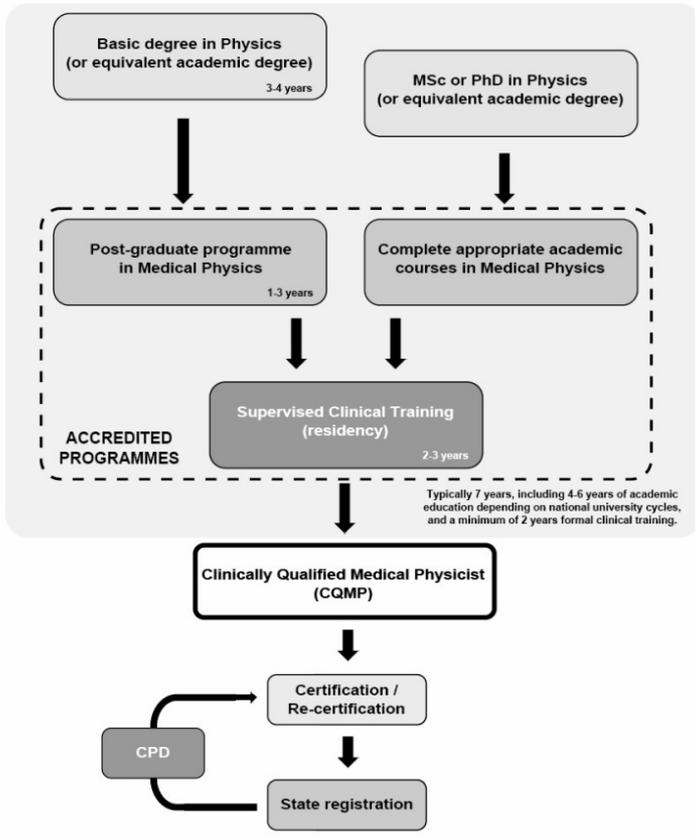
- **Population:** 1.2 b
- **Land Area:** 30.2 mil km²
- **Countries:** 55
- **IAEA MSs:** 38

	Co-60 EBRT	Linac
North Africa	42	165
Middle Africa	20	22
Southern Africa	10	85

Source: DIRAC, June 2017



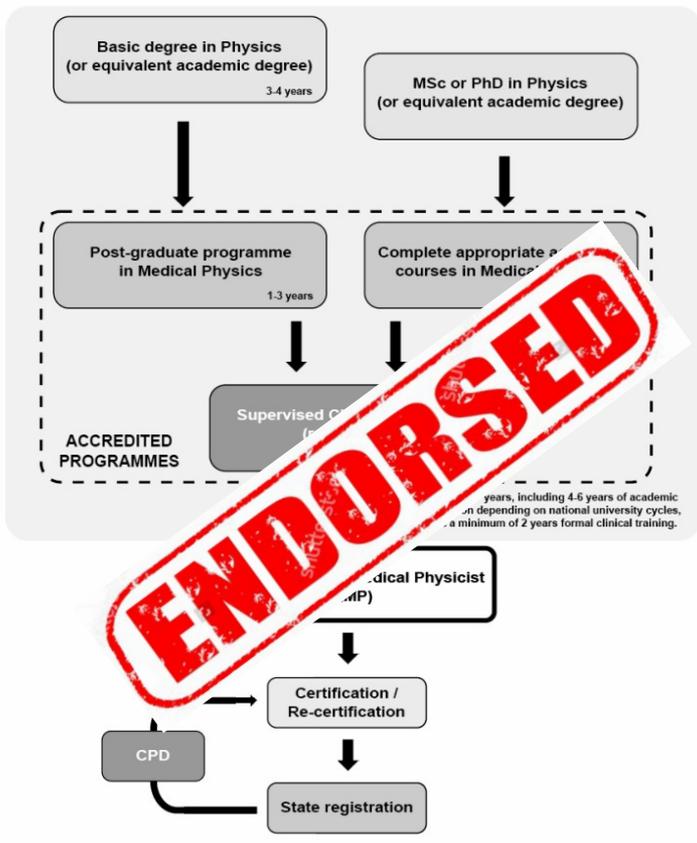
Background



- Postgraduate medical physics academic programme:
 - ✓ introduces students to basic principles of medical physics.
 - ✓ prepares them for hospital-based clinical training programme.
- Academic programme provides partial fulfillment for recognition as CQMP.
- Supervised hospital-based clinical training programme develops skills and competencies necessary for trainees to practice in the clinical environment.



Background



Source: IAEA (2013), Academic and Clinical Training Programmes and Portfolios for the Regional Training in Medical Physics



Contribution By IAEA / AFRA



- Training and recognition of medical physicists in Africa faced challenges in times past.
- Through IAEA and AFRA, three **publications on E&T** of MPs in Africa have been produced.
 - ✓ TFMs held under **RAF RT MP** (RAF 6/027, RAF 6/031 and RAF 6/044) and **NM MP** (RAF 6/032, RAF 6/038 and RAF6048) projects.
- Approval of centres to be recognized as **Regional Designated Centres** (RDCs) for academic and clinical training.



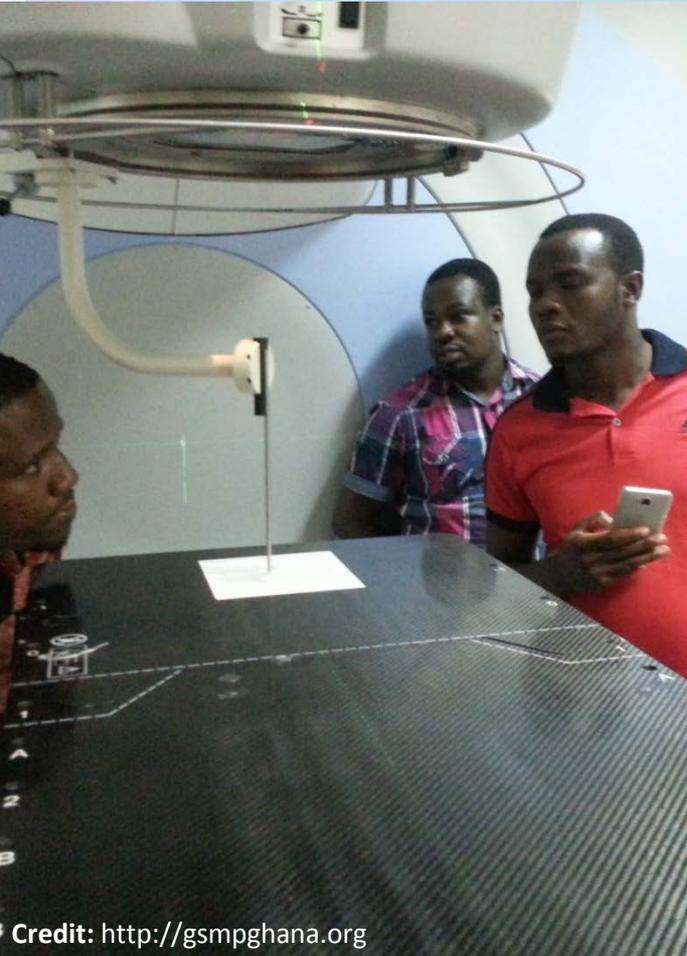
Academic and Clinical Training

- FAMPO plays essential role in **E&T** of MP.
- FAMPO has **endorsed** IAEA/AFRA publications.
 - ✓ Regional Postgraduate Medical Physics Syllabus for Academic Programmes (2013)
 - ✓ Regional Clinical Training Programme for Radiotherapy Medical Physics (2013)
 - ✓ Template Portfolio for the Regional Clinical Training Programme in Radiotherapy Medical Physics (2013).
- Publications have largely **harmonized** standard of MP academic education in the region.
- MP RDCs are established in **ALG, EGY, GHA, MOR** and **SAF**.





Academic and Clinical Training



- Ongoing efforts to implement **FAMPO accredited clinical training** for MPs.
- Two TFMs held in 2016 (collaboration between IAEA and FAMPO):
 - ✓ Survey to assess capability and willingness of RT centres to provide full/partial accreditation of clinical training programme performed.
- Workplan for implementing accredited clinical training is aligned with workplan for IAEA's TC Project RAF 6050.
 - ✓ Improving Access to Quality Cancer Management through Sustainable Capacity Building



Academic and Clinical Training

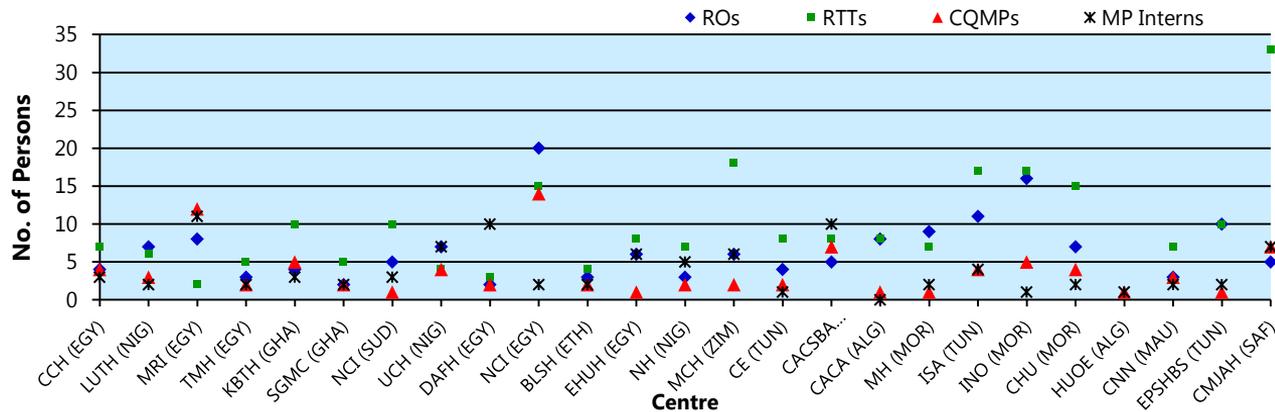


Fig 1:
Staffing Levels
in centres

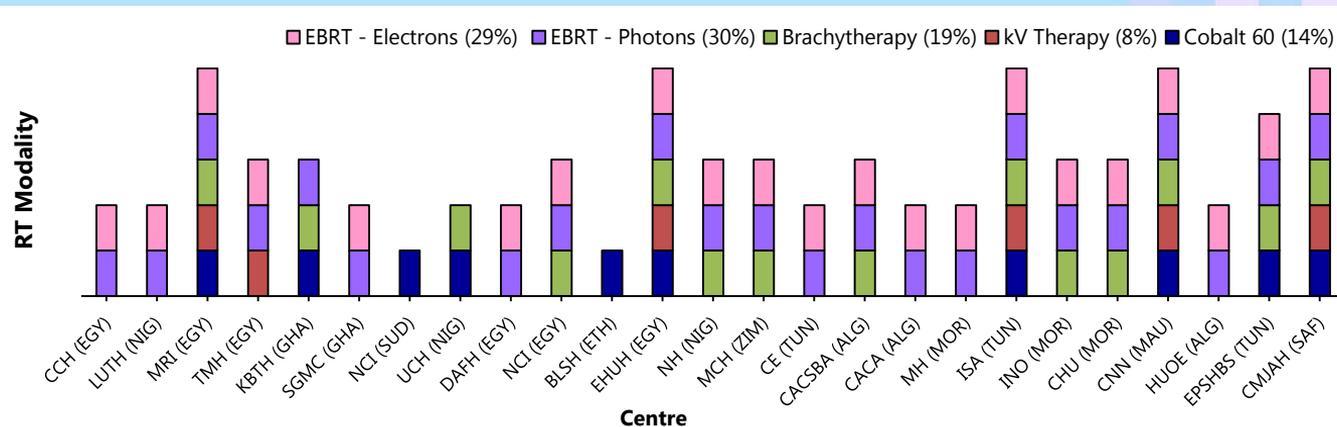


Fig. 2:
Accreditation being
sought by centres



Recognition of MPs

- Countries with proper **legislation** (national recognition) of MPs:
 - ✓ South Africa (HPCSA)
 - ✓ Ghana (AHPC)

Structured academic and clinical
MP training programmes

Licensure exams after internship

License to practice

State registration

- Other countries are at various stages of legislative processes



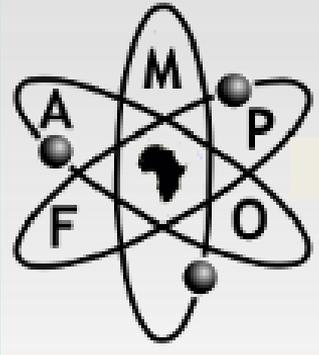
Recognition of MPs



- Professional Development Committee (PDC) of FAMPO is:
 - ✓ mandated to establish regional mechanism by which CQMPs can be recognized through formal process of certification and registration.
 - ✓ working closely with E&T Committee to help increase the number of accredited academic training programmes and establish accredited clinical training programmes in the region.
- This is necessary for:
 - ✓ development MP profession in the Africa region.
 - ✓ ensuring that trained MPs from accredited institutions automatically receive registration from FAMPO.



FAMPO's Role



Championing the adoption of the IAEA/AFRA published documents on education and training of MPs in the region

Providing advice on the establishment of AFRA RDCs for the training of medical physicists in Africa

Encouraging mentorship of sister centres in the region by recognized RDCs so as to achieve many more RDCs

Developing workplan and strategies for the establishment of accredited MP clinical training programmes in the region



Conclusion



- FAMPO's role is key to achieve **harmonized** and **high standard** of education and training programmes in Africa, which leads to:
 - ✓ improved **quality** and **quantity** of trained MPs who would readily be in position to practice competently and independently
 - ✓ improved **medical imaging** and **radiotherapy treatment delivery** in the region



Acknowledgement



Thank You