

# Mid-term Reflection on Qualitative Research Capacity Building Initiative in Misungwi, Tanzania



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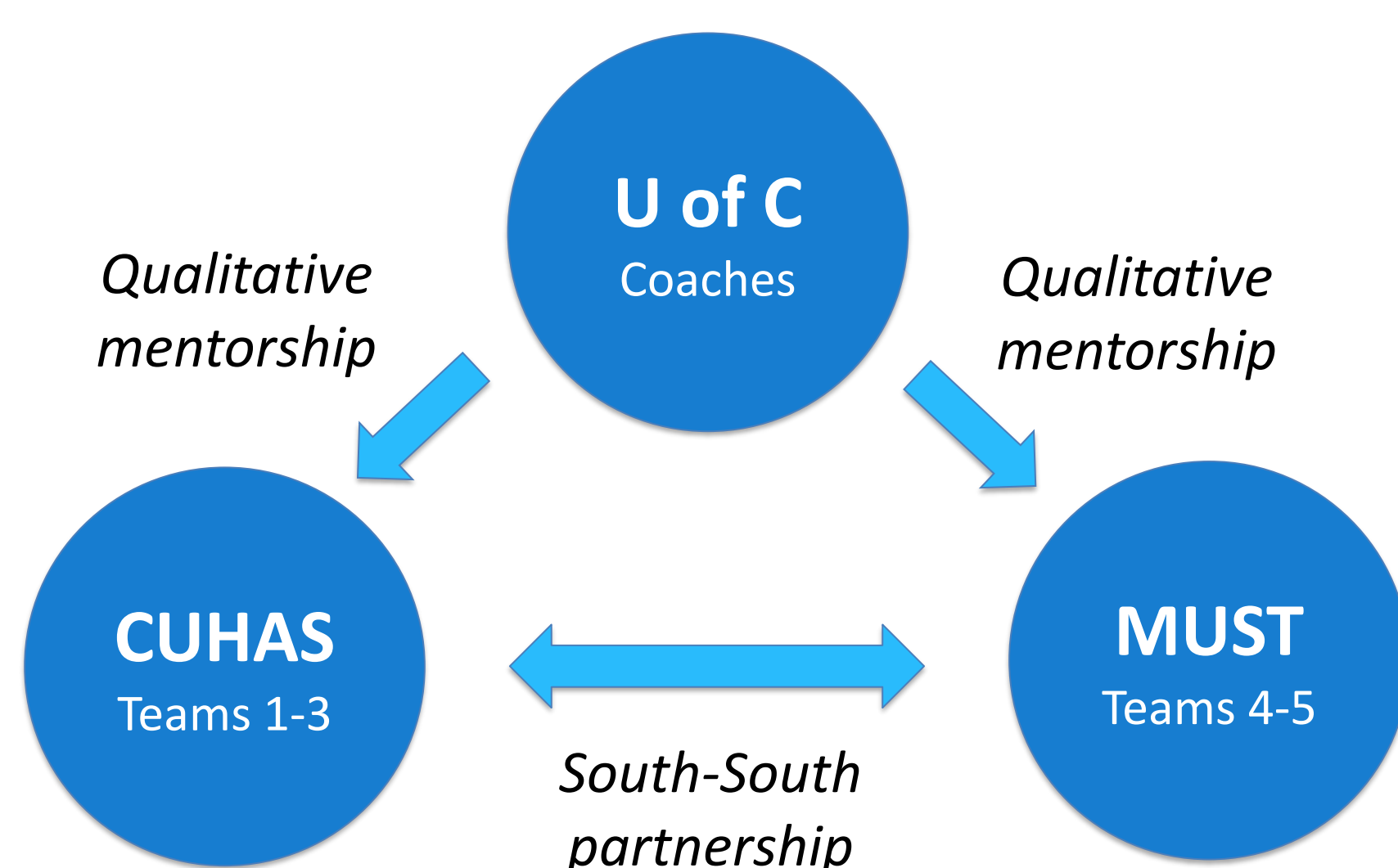
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## Introduction

- Mama na Mtoto is a maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) project that aims to improve care-seeking and health facility services in Misungwi and Kwimba District
- Experiences from 2016 baseline data collection found that:
  - Local practical experience and senior mentors in qualitative research is limited
  - It is unclear how key influencers act as barriers or enablers to reaching vulnerable women
  - It is unclear what are culturally appropriate ways to reaching influencers and vulnerable populations
- The 'Synergy' initiative was established in November 2017 to:
  - Enhance East African capacity in qualitative research
  - Understand how to better engage influencers, adolescents, and vulnerable populations in MNCH programming

## Methods

- Three study 'teams' at CUHAS were formed to carry out focused qualitative research on key topics identified from baseline:
  - Team #1: Male partner engagement
  - Team #2: Adolescent women
  - Team #3: Vulnerable illiterate women
- Two teams were also formed at MUST university in Uganda to build a South-South partnership
- Each team has 4-5 junior researchers and is 'coached' by a qualitative research expert from the University of Calgary
- Coaches will facilitate a series of five workshops over two years to mentor teams on qualitative research design, data collection, data analysis, writing, and ultimately dissemination of their projects



## Results

### Team Progress Thus Far:

- Three mentorship workshops on qualitative design, data collection, and data analysis completed; two writing workshops planned for 2019
- Each team has developed a research protocol, data management strategy, and data collection tools
- Each team has completed primary data collection in Misungwi District with Swahili and English transcripts

### Data Collection Summary:

Team	In-depth Interviews	Key Informant Interviews	Focus Group Discussions
Team #1	10	11	12
Team #2	22	9	8
Team #3	13	11	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>



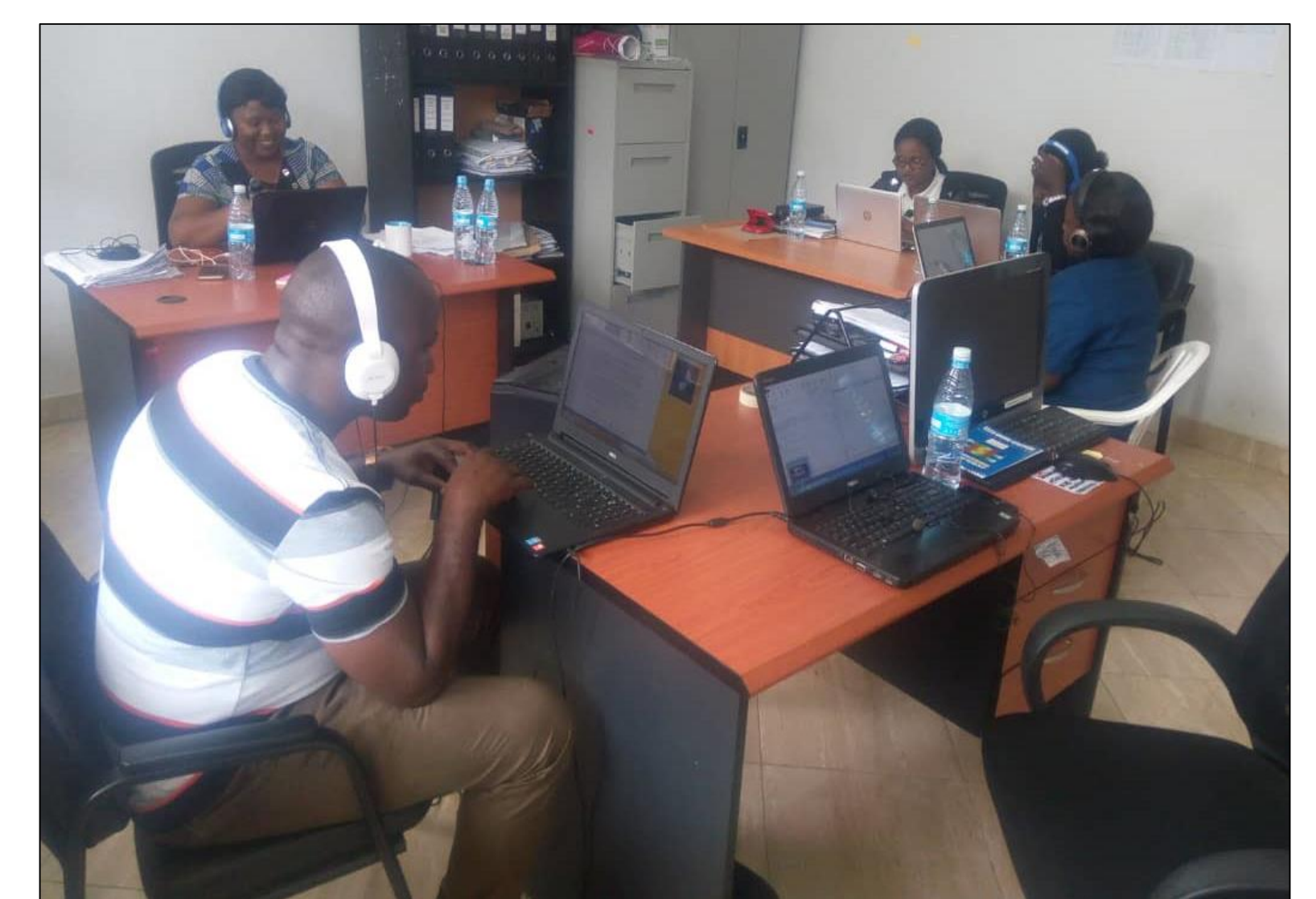
Group photo of Tanzanian and Ugandan team members during workshop on data analysis



Canadian coach mentoring team during workshop on qualitative research design



Team members working together on their research protocol



Team members conducting quality checks of their Swahili and English transcripts

### Highlights

- Increased team knowledge in organizing interviews/focus groups, mobilizing data collection teams, and recruiting target participants
- Gathered interesting information about community MNCH care-seeking and health service experiences

### Areas for Improvement

- Need for more hands-on practice during workshops
- Better capture non-verbal participant cues during data collection
- Prolong engagement at data collection sites to facilitate probing and participant rapport

## Conclusion

- A capacity building approach has been successful in mentoring junior East African researchers to conduct focused qualitative research in MNCH.
- Experiences will help to inform how to better mobilize qualitative research and implement MNCH programming so that vulnerable populations are reached.

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