

CARTA News

The Newsletter of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa



RESEARCH FUNDING AND TRAINING



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Investing in research and postgraduate training critical for sustainable development

By Eunice Kilonzo, CARTA communications officer

Thirteen vice chancellors of African universities and heads of research institutions gathered in Kigali on April 26 to discuss the future of higher education in the continent, promoting investment in research in national institutions of higher education as a critical contributor to progress towards the sustainable development agenda.

The one-day meeting allowed the participants to understand more fully CARTA's commitment to strengthening institutions, particularly in research governance, management, and administration taking root at the participating academic partners across the continent.

Of the more than 209 PhD CARTA fellowships granted to early career researchers from 12 African institutions, 65 new graduates have emerged, each contributing to a robust body of knowledge generated by the continent on issues related to population health and development.

More than 900 peer-reviewed publications by fellows as contributing authors have appeared in high impact journals, complemented by blogs, briefs, and other materials to reach policy actors from the global to the municipal levels.

“CARTA helps universities to develop exciting environments for academic and research pursuits while supporting promising African scholars in affiliated universities to get high-quality doctoral training through our theory of change,” said CARTA co-director Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi.

The vice-chancellors and heads of institutions met with their CARTA institution focal person and got updates of the progress within the program and opportunities for improved engagement among the participating institutions both with the fellows and with one another.

“The scope of opportunities available to graduate students is broader than ever before, and we are helping to ensure that

University of Rwanda researchers are contributing to the body of evidence,” said Professor Phillip Cotton, the VC from the host institution.

The meeting also provided an avenue for reflection on expanding the consortium to other institutions, as well as on how to orient a cohesive strategy for institutionalizing some of the critical elements of CARTA, including the rigorous month-long joint advanced seminars that are an opportunity to teach the fundamentals of research discipline in these early-career professionals.

The meeting in Kigali coincided with the annual convening by African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) attended by vice-chancellors from universities from southern, eastern and western Africa. CARTA secretariat invited the ARUA heads of institutions where they discussed how to build the research capacity of their institutions and modalities to adopt CARTA's innovative graduate training.

Participants	Institution
Prof. Phillip Cotton	University of Rwanda
Dr. Charles Murigande	University of Rwanda
Prof. Peter Mbithi	University of Nairobi
Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka	University of Ibadan
Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe	Makerere University
Prof. Adam Mohammed Habib	University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Eyitope Ogunbodede	Obafemi Awolowo University
Prof. Mamokgethi Phakeng	University of Cape Town
Prof. Wim de Villiers	Stellenbosch University
Prof. Frans Swanepoel	University of Pretoria
Prof. David Mfinanga	University of Dar es salaam
Prof. Paul Garside	University of Glasgow
Mr. Richard Middleton	Common Wealth Scholarship Commission
Prof. Ernest Aryeetey	University of Ghana / ARUA

Prof. Isaac Sanga Kosgey	Moi University
Dr. Mwapatsa Mipando	University of Malawi
Prof. Stephen Tollman	Agincourt Health & Pop Unit
Dr. Robin Drennan	University of Witwatersrand
Prof. Sharon Fonn	University of Witwatersrand
Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi	APHRC
Dr. Pierre Claver Rutayisire	University of Rwanda
Dr. Anne Khasakhala	University of Nairobi
Prof. Akiyinka Omigbodun	University of Ibadan
Dr. John Bosco Isunju	Makerere University
Dr. Jude Igumbor	University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Anthony Mabayoje Aluko	Obafemi Awolowo University
Dr. Diana Menya	Moi University
Prof. Mwapatsa Mipando	University of Malawi
Prof. Adamson Muula	University of Malawi
Dr. Kafuruki Mwigirwa Shubis	Ifakara Health Institute
Dr. Hesborn Wao	APHRC
Dr. Funke Fayehun	University of Ibadan
Dr. Emiliar Molnar	SIDA Embassy of Sweden
Ms. Allen Mukhwana	DELTAS Africa
Ms. Alloya Elwadie	Carnegie
Robin Drennan	University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Sharon Fonn	University of the Witwatersrand
Dr. Julius Ecuru	icipe*
Prof. Alexandre Lyambabje	IUCEA*
Dr. Phillip Ayoo	IUCEA
Dr. Alex Ezeh	Invited Guest
Dr. Evelyn Gitau	APHRC
Dr. Marta Vicente-Crespo	APHRC
Dr. Florah Karimi	APHRC
Ms. Eunice Kilonzo	APHRC
Ms. Rita Karoki	APHRC

*IUCEA - Inter University Council of East Africa

*icipe - International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology
Shaded are ARUA invited guests.



Photo 1: CARTA Co-Director, Sharon Fonn gives a performance update of the program.
Photo 2: Prof. Adam Habib (University of the Witwatersrand) contributes in the plenary discussion.
Photo 3: Prof. Philip Cotton (University of Rwanda) while giving opening remarks.
Photo 4,6: Some of the participants engaging in group discussions.
Photo 5: CARTA Co-Director, Catherine Kyobutungi makes a presentation on the future of CARTA.
Photo 7: Prof. Mamokgethi Phakeng (University of Cape Town) gives feedback after a presentation.





Meet Cohort Nine



Ernest Yamie Moya
University of Malawi
Research interests: Anemia



Olujide Olusesan Arije,
Obafemi Awolowo University
Research interests: Adolescents health



Skye Nandi Adams
University of the Witwatersrand
Research interests: Pediatric communications disorders



Noel Korukire
University of Rwanda
Research interests: Water quality and community health



Priscille Musabirema
University of Rwanda
Research interests: Renal illness



Lilian Nkirote Njagi
University of Nairobi
Research interests: Infectious diseases such as HIV and TB



Leonidas Banamwana
University of Rwanda
Research interests: Non-communicable diseases



Charles Ssemugabo
Makerere University
Research interests: Pesticide residues in food and vegetables



Cyril Nyalik Ogada
University of Nairobi
Research interests: Health service delivery



Evelyne Kantarama
University of Rwanda
Research interests: Hormonal contraception use



Wilfred Eneku
Makerere University
Research interests: Emerging infectious zoonotic diseases



Kirsty Van Stormbroek
University of the Witwatersrand
Research interests: Hand injury care



Funmito Omolola Fehintola
Obafemi Awolowo University
 Research interests: Adolescents and non-communicable diseases



Olufunmilola Bamidele Makanjuola,
University of Ibadan
 Research interests: Fungal infections



Abiket Nanfizat Alamukii
University of Ibadan
 Research interests: Genetics of breast cancer



Olindah Mkhonto Silaule
University of the Witwatersrand
 Research interests: Quality and efficiency of community mental health



Jane Wanjiru Macharia
University of Nairobi
 Research interests: Fluoride transmission from mother to child



Abimbola Margaret Obimakinde
University of Ibadan
 Research interests: Psychosocial family support of young people



Ronald Kibet Tonui,
Moi University
 Research interests: Genetic link to tuberculosis infections



Omolayo Bukola Oluwatope
Obafemi Awolowo University
 Research interests: Access to maternal and child health



Alex John Ntamatungiro
Ifakara Health Institute
 Research interests: HIV adolescents treatment outcomes



Glory Mzembe
University of Malawi
 Research interests: Malaria and anemia



Temitope Ilori
University of Ibadan
 Research interests: Link between cardiovascular diseases and food insecurity



Joselyn Annet Atuhairwe
Makerere University
 Research interests: Malaria transmission



Anne Khisa, CARTA postdoctoral fellow (Cohort Three from the University of Nairobi) in partnership with the Centre for Capacity Research at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine developed new guidelines on improving research capacity strengthening (RCS) evaluation practice particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.



Facilitators from around the world shared tips and ideas on how to improve the proposal and grant writing skills of 17 CARTA graduates as part of the February 11-16 graduate workshop. Facilitators included Håkan Billig (University of Gothenburg), Charles Obonyo (KEMRI), APHRC's Duncan Gatoto, Evelyn Gitau, Florah Karimi, Justus Musasiah and Marta Vicente-Crespo; Mosa Moshabela (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Violet Naanyu (Moi University), Jackie Sturt (King's College London), and Martin Underwood (University of Warwick).



CARTA Communications Officer Eunice Kilonzo was in Durban, South Africa for the three-day Africa Asia Communications Forum (AACF) at the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI), University of KwaZulu-Natal. More than 30 attendees joined practical sessions in photography, storytelling and communicating science (including in languages other than English) and how to engage with the media to amplify their work. The January 23-25 workshop culminated with a joint commitment to a stronger Africa-Asia communications network, to include collaboration in communications skills training for scientists in their institutions.



Focal points from the 12 participating CARTA institutions gathered in Kigali for a one-day meeting on April 24 to develop research questions aiming to explore the impact of CARTA on African efforts to expand higher education offerings for its young populations. The one-day planning session preceded the May 30-31 workshop facilitated by evaluation and learning expert Barbara Klugman, and should yield publications on the impact of the consortium and how best to document CARTA's contribution in building vibrant multidisciplinary academy of world-class research.



Cohort Six fellows Mpho Molete (left) from the University of the Witwatersrand and Olivia Osiro (right) from the University of Nairobi celebrated World Oral Health Day on March 20.



Catherine Musyoka Amulundu, Cohort Seven fellow from the University of Nairobi, made a poster presentation at the 27th Society for Prevention Science at Annual conference in San Francisco, the US from May 28 - 31. The theme this year was prevention science in a Big Data World. The fellow presented her work on the sub-theme mHealth in the prevention of substance use among university students.





University of Malawi-CARTA postgraduate supervision workshop



The Africa Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Herbal Medicine (ACEPHEM) at the University of Malawi hosted a five-day workshop to provide new techniques for supervision to faculty who supervise postgraduate students. The February 4-8 workshop brought together 15 deans, directors of doctoral studies and quality assurance, and representatives from councils for higher education and doctoral students. Dr. Lucas Zinner, (pictured above) who leads the research services and career development unit at the University of Vienna, Austria, facilitated the workshop.

Makerere University hosts successful JASes



CARTA partner Makerere University hosted another successful month-long intensive residential workshop in March for a total of 49 fellows drawn from four

CARTA cohorts at the university's School of Public Health in March. Fellows from Cohort Nine attended Joint Advanced Seminar (JAS) 1, which lays a foundation for critical thinking, technical skills, and other core research competencies, and introduces students to the essential concepts and seminal articles of the disciplines within the CARTA initiative. Fellows from cohorts Four, Five and Six were guided on how to develop individualized professional development strategies and postdoctoral career aspirations as part of JAS 4.



CARTA calendar July - December 2019

July 15-18, 2019	DELTA AGM Dakar, Senegal
JAS 3 for Cohort 7 Ibadan, Nigeria	July 29 - Aug 24, 2019
Sept 16-17, 2019	CARTA Research Meeting Nairobi, Kenya
CARTA Forward Planning Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya	Sept 18, 2019
Sept 19, 2019	10th CARTA Partners Annual Forum Nairobi, Kenya
20th CARTA Board of Management and Funders Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya	Sept 20, 2019
Nov 4-28, 2019	JAS 2 Cohort 9 Johannesburg, South Africa
Supervisors Training Johannesburg, South Africa	Nov 21-27, 2019

The value of community engagement for public influence

By Eunice Kilonzo, CARTA communications officer

On November 30, 2018, Dr. Liz Kimani from APHRC hosted a soup kitchen in an urban slum in Nairobi. Dozens of community activists from across Nairobi slum communities gathered to share a meal of traditional foods and share their experiences with food insecurity, and those of their neighbors. The soup kitchen was an opportunity to taste different flavors but also to take a different approach to public engagement: an innovative idea that Dr. Kimani gleaned from her experience and exposure to new techniques to reach lay audiences as part of her Wellcome Trust International Engagement Fellowship.

Researchers are increasingly looking for new ways to leverage the evidence they generate and synthesize to influence the way conversations happen at public and policy levels. Bringing evidence into decision-making processes requires a careful balance between the technical and the accessible, framing of research findings for audiences that could benefit from the shared information, without overstating impact or implications for the future.

Active engagement means finding a delicate balance between the personal and the political, with respect and critical awareness of the cultural and traditional influences that could prevent evidence uptake. This is why considerable time and effort is being spent globally to develop and test appropriate models for engagement with communities, many of which revolve around storytelling, either using traditional or technology-enhanced methods to marry the big data of evidence with little data of human experience.

My role as a communications officer at APHRC, supporting our research capacity strengthening initiatives across the continent, is evolving to incorporate a lot of these new models to help others use their research to be transformative in the daily lives of our fellow Africans. I have had the privilege to work not only with APHRC teams and our CARTA fellows but also with some external institutions, including Kenya's own Mawazo Institute and with a cluster of doctoral fellows gathered in May 2019 in Dakar, Senegal, to share ideas and poster presentations that are now ready for lay audiences. I am prepared to engage and help researchers add some creative flair to the way they share their work!



New non-African institution partner

CARTA is proud to welcome our first South American partner, the University of Chile, to the consortium. This partnership emerged as part of CARTA's continued successful relationship with ESE: O, an online teaching platform run by international experts that seek to grow the writing skills in early-career researchers. ESE: O has since 2011 facilitated writing workshops for CARTA fellows and graduates.

As a partner, the University of Chile will identify and provide advisors and mentors for CARTA fellows and graduates. They will also support identifying and position candidates for research placements/internships and other career development and networking opportunities. They will also be called upon to facilitate CARTA training events, review fellow and graduate assignments and proposals, as well as provide support in proposal development and fundraising. *Bienvenido al Consorcio, Universidad de Chile!*

Updated acknowledgment text

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**For fellows funded by Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC) and the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) please include the respective funder after DELTAS Africa Initiative (Grant No: 107768/Z/15/Z).*

CARTA's gender inclusion work showcased in Sweden

CARTA co-director Sharon Fonn participated in a panel discussion on the role of research cooperation in combating poverty and contributing to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development at the SIDA Science Days held from May 20-22 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Prof. Fonn offered insight into CARTA's approach to merit-based opportunities for an advanced scholarship for women, by acknowledging the sometimes competing interests and responsibilities of childbearing may hinder academic success. Her talk, how to increase the number of women researchers, re-emphasized the global discussion to advance action and accountability for gender equality and equity in global health.

New focal person



University of Malawi



➤ Ellen Chirwa, University of Malawi

Ellen Chirwa has been appointed the second University of Malawi focal person to work alongside Adamson S. Muula. Prof. Chirwa will replace Kamija Phiri, a professor in Clinical Epidemiology and head of the School of Public Health and Family Medicine who has served a five-year term as the focal point.

University of Rwanda



➤ Moussa Hakizimana, University of Rwanda

University of Rwanda's Vice Chancellor Philip Cotton has appointed Moussa Hakizimana as the new co-focal person at the university. Dr. Hakizimana from the College of Medicine and Health Sciences will serve alongside Pierre Claver Rutayisire, who is both the other focal person and the Chair of the CARTA Board of Management.

Kudos: Appointments, awards and nominations



Stephen Wandera
appointed acting head of department

Stephen Wandera, a graduate of Cohort Two, was on February 18 appointed acting head, Department of Population Studies (DPS), Makerere University. He will participate in the review of curricula, develop the research capacity of staff and students, and take part in human resource functions such as performance appraisals, promotions, and recruitment.

Kennedy Otwombe
promoted to associate professor



CARTA graduate and Cohort One Fellow Kennedy Otwombe was promoted to an associate professor at the University of the Witwatersrand School of Public Health.

Evangeline Njiru nominated to Kenya's National Cancer Board



Evangeline Njiru, from Moi University, is among four appointees to the Kenya National Cancer Institute board. Evangeline is a physician, oncologist, and lecturer at Moi University. The graduate and Cohort Four fellow's research interests are in cancer care.

Cheikh Faye, to lead APHRC West Africa regional office

Cohort Five fellow Cheikh Faye was tapped in May to lead the new West Africa regional office for APHRC, in Dakar, Senegal. Executive Director Catherine Kyobutungi officially opened the office. The Board, representatives from the health and finance ministries in Senegal, FAWE, Speak Up Africa among other APHRC friends in the region graced the launch. The regional office will anchor APHRC's partner projects in West Africa such as the Countdown to 2030 Regional Initiative, Improving Girls Education, and the Immunization Advocacy Initiative. Cheikh's doctoral research is on factors associated with stunting and catch-up growth among under-five children in Nairobi informal settlements.



Adesola Olumide, awarded funds to support global efforts to end violence against children

Adesola Olumide, Cohort Three fellow, from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria won close to US\$30,000 to communicate and publicize a set of global strategies geared towards ending violence against children ages 0-17. The U.S-based New Venture Fund and Ignite Philanthropy gave her the award.



Taofeek Awotidebe Adedoyin named among next global leaders in cardiovascular health

Taofeek O. Awotidebe Adedoyin, Cohort One fellow, has been named one of 25 World Heart Federation (WHF) Salim Yusuf Emerging Leaders. The graduate from Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) will take part in a 'think tank' seminar in the UK in October 2019 and participate in research and dissemination activities related to cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention or treatment. The Geneva-based program, created in 2014 by Professor Salim Yusuf, a CVD research leader, seeks to build the capacity, professional development, mentorship and networking of WHF Emerging Leaders in 100 countries.





CARTA allows me to be ambitious and daring

Kudus Oluwatoyin Adebayo, Cohort Six fellow, University of Ibadan

When I decided to do my doctoral research on the settlement experiences of Nigerians in China, I was responding to an urgent call: produce knowledge about Africans beyond the African continent.

However, for many African students in social sciences and humanities faculties, we are trained to ignore “risky” research ideas like my proposed doctoral topic. CARTA stimulated my creativity in the research process, and my turning point was during the first Joint Advanced Seminar in March 2016 where I presented my proposal in a room full of peers, senior fellows and members of the CARTA Board. While most of the people in the room agreed that my research idea was inchoate, they nonetheless agreed the research is worth exploring.



» Kudus Oluwatoyin Adebayo

My doctoral research is critical in understanding the current cross-continental mobility, from the social,

political, economic, and cultural capitals and the transnational activities of migrants. African migrants experience inadequate access to healthcare services. The barriers they encounter have institutional, economic, social, and cultural dimensions. In my research, I met two undocumented Nigerian medicine entrepreneurs in China. Their experiences as medicine traders in Guangzhou provide a lens through which to observe how migrant entrepreneurship is being deployed to survive and negotiate the intersecting problems of unemployment and healthcare inaccessibility in China.

CARTA offered me a chance to undertake not only ambitious and daring research but also transcontinental in philosophy and practice.

Fellows on the move!

Zagreb, Croatia---Cohort Eight fellow Samuel Waweru Mwaniki participated in the Population Size Estimation and Enhanced Use of Surveys and Program Data for HIV Surveillance in Key Populations. The training course took place at the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for HIV Strategic Information, University of Zagreb in Zagreb, Croatia from March 4-8.

Durban, South Africa---Three fellows, Oluseye Okunola (Cohort Seven, Obafemi Awolowo University), Winnie Chepkurui Mutai (Cohort Four, University of Nairobi), and Angella Musewa (Cohort Eight, University of Nairobi) presented their abstracts at the Infectious Diseases Symposium from May 27 to 28, 2019.

Dakar, Senegal---Esther Kikelomo Afolabi, Cohort Five fellow from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria participated in the two-day African Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship (ADDRF) symposium held on May 15-16. Afolabi, also an ADDRf fellow, was one of 50 fellows from 14 African countries who shared their research work in health rights, health systems, and health policy at the symposium.

Geneva, Switzerland---Cohort Seven fellow Eniola Olubukola Cadmus from the University of Ibadan on the invitation of the World Health Organization participated in an expert group meeting on “Measurement of Violence against Older Women”. The two-day meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland between April 2-3.

Texas, U.S---Sunday Adedini, Cohort One fellow, participated and spoke at the Annual Conference of the Population Association of America, held on April 10-13, 2019. He made an oral presentation on the trends and patterns long-acting reversible methods of contraception among women in sub-Saharan Africa.

Gothenburg, Sweden---Folake Lawal, Abiola Komolafe, Blessings N. Kaunda-Khangamwa, Aurore Nishimwe, all Cohort Seven fellows, participated in various short courses (ranging from one to six weeks) at the Institute of Medicine, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Sweden from March to April 2019.



CARTA Alumni Watch

Dieudonne Uwizeye - CARTA Postdoctoral Fellow, African Population and Health Research Center

Dieudonne Uwizeye is a demographer with a focus on hygiene and sanitation, resource distribution, access to education, and access to healthcare services in urban informal settlements and slums.

This builds on his doctoral research that focused on the determinants of diarrhea prevalence among residents of informal urban settlements in Rwanda.

He has won two research grants to explore the population and health dynamics in Kigali's urban informal settlements (a University of Rwanda/SIDA-funded project), and another to institutionalize CARTA innovation in doctoral training at the University of Rwanda (CARTA+ funded project) incorporating CARTA JASes.



» Dieudonné Uwizeye

The Cohort One fellow, currently a Postdoctoral fellow at APHRC, is a graduate of the University of Dar es Salaam and is also a lecturer at the

department of development studies, University of Rwanda.

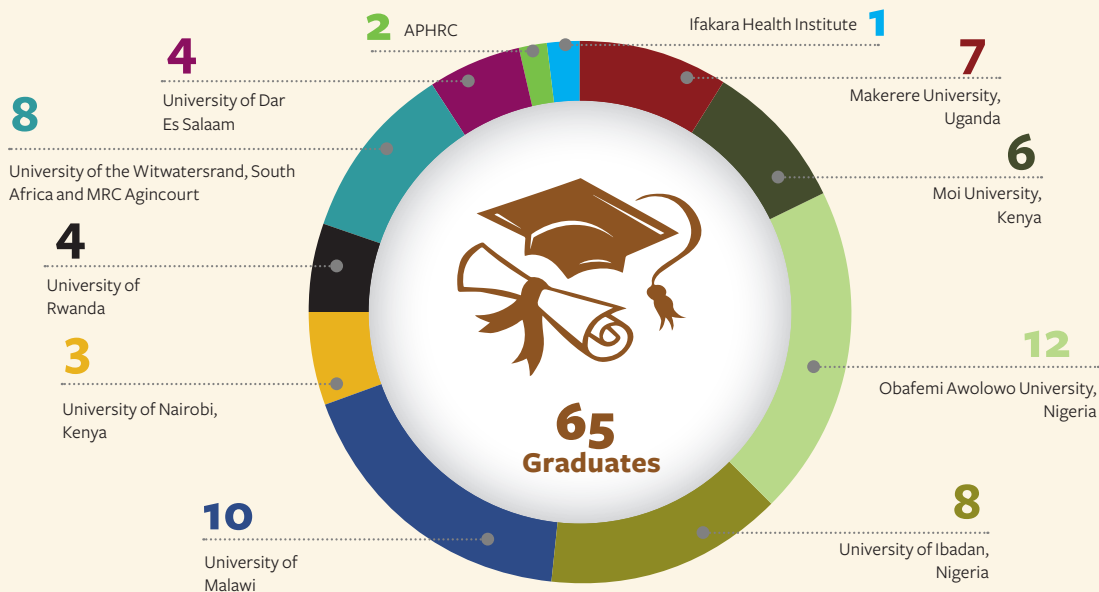
He is investigating, as part of his postdoctoral work, access to education among slum residents in Nairobi and the level of collaboration, determinants, and barriers among CARTA fellows and graduates.



65

Uwizeye is one of 65 CARTA graduates

Distribution of graduates per home institution



Editorial Team:

Eunice Kilonzo | Lauren Gelfand | Marta Vicente-Crespo | Evelyn Gitau

Contact us:

Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa
African Population & Health Research Center
APHRC Campus, 2nd Floor, Kirawa Road, off Peponi Road
P.O. Box 10787-00100, Nairobi, Kenya

Telephone: +254 (20) 400 1000, 266 2244, or 266 2255 | Mobile: +254 722 205 933, 733 410 102

E-mail: cartaenquiries@aphrc.org, | Website: www.cartafrika.org



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