



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The SFA Foundation is a pan-African, non-profit, and public charity organisation that supports, strengthens, and promotes science and innovation in Africa.

From the Chair of the Board



THE ROAD TO SUCCESS
IS EXCELLENCE.
SFA FOUNDATION
STRENGTHENS THE
RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM
IN AFRICA, WHILE
GENERATING SCIENTIFIC
OUTPUT FOR THE BENEFIT
OF ALL GLOBAL CITIZENS.

The stature of Africa as a contributor to global research is growing dramatically. Only three years since its founding, Science for Africa Foundation is a major contributor to this growth.

We believe that the road to success is excellence. Only by identifying the most promising science can we best contribute to advancing our priorities in human health, the climate and environment, and agriculture. Our work strengthens the research and innovation ecosystem in Africa while generating scientific output for the benefit of all global citizens.

This work is enabled by strong individuals and institutions, in both our internal and external communities, who are held accountable to international standards of ethics and financial oversight.

In our increasingly complex and politicised world, Science for Africa Foundation is a beacon for data-driven research and innovation and a showcase for the benefits of investing in those who are committed to excellence.



ALINAH SEGOBYE
— Board Chairperson

From the Chief Executive Officer



TOM KARIUKI
— CEO

The Science for Africa Foundation is driving a transformative agenda across the continent by investing in world-class scientists and the institutional frameworks that sustain them. Guided by our 2023–2027 strategic roadmap, our efforts are anchored in a singular, powerful ambition: moving “from science to impact.”

By supporting a diverse portfolio that ranges from expansive multi-country consortia to targeted investigator-led grants, we ensure that scientific excellence translates directly into sustainable development. Throughout 2024, we significantly deepened Africa’s research capacity through flagship initiatives such as DELTAS Africa and the Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellowship. Our reach expanded into critical new frontiers, including increased investments in mental health, the social sciences, and pandemic preparedness, while continuing to spark home-grown breakthroughs through Grand Challenges Africa. These programmatic successes are bolstered by essential ecosystem investments in science communication, policy engagement, and research management, which amplify the visibility and real-world relevance of African research.

These achievements are made possible through robust global funding partnerships and a shared commitment to keeping people at the heart of scientific inquiry. As we look to the future, the SFA Foundation remains united in its mission. We are dedicated to fostering an equitable innovation landscape that builds public trust, ensures accountability, and delivers lasting well-being for all Africans.



**THROUGHOUT
2024, WE
SIGNIFICANTLY
DEEPEMED
AFRICA'S
RESEARCH
CAPACITY
THROUGH
FLAGSHIP
INITIATIVES
SUCH AS DELTAS
AFRICA AND
THE CALESTOUS
JUMA SCIENCE
LEADERSHIP
FELLOWSHIP.**

Governance and People

Science for Africa Foundation (SFA Foundation) is represented by a robust governance, management, and programme team drawn from across the continent and with decades of experience in designing and managing science and innovation programmes to catalyse major change in African science. The team is committed to a shared vision of success and is prioritising strong capabilities in science communication, knowledge management, finance and grant making, partnerships, fundraising, and performance management.

Board of Directors



Alinah Segoby
Board Chairperson



Kevin Marsh



Djikeng Appolinaire



Éliane Ubalijoro



Nabila Bouatia-Naji



Paul Sagnia



Victoria Sabula



Martin Eigbike



Victoria Simpkin

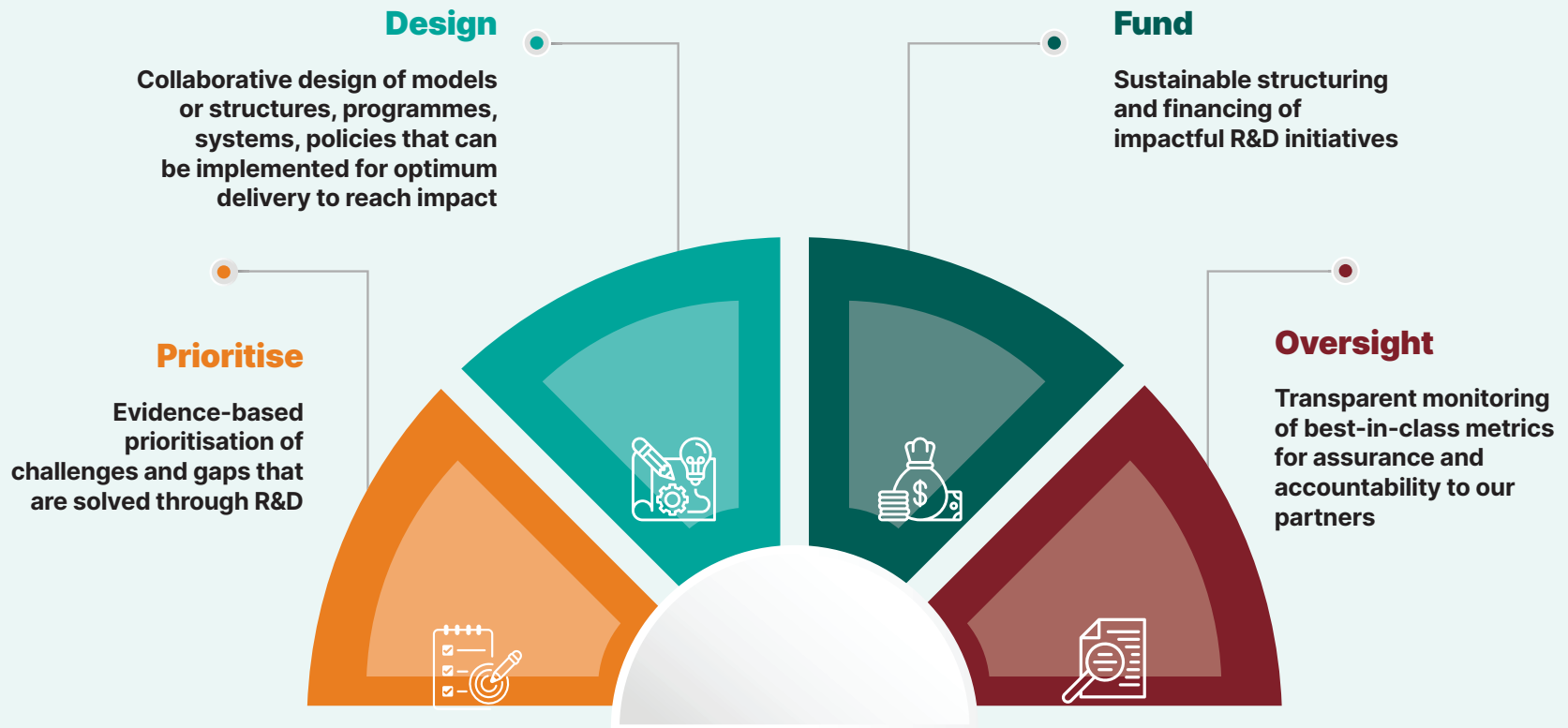


Tom Kariuki
Chief Executive Officer

SFA Foundation Science and Innovation Areas of Focus

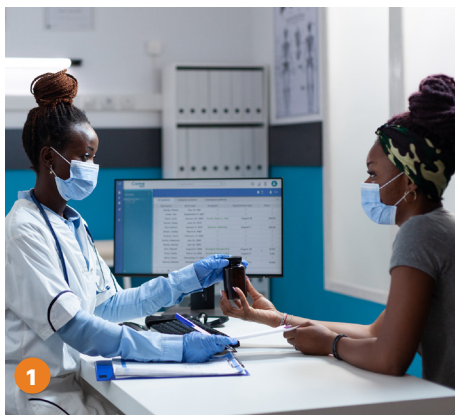


SFA Foundation Business Model



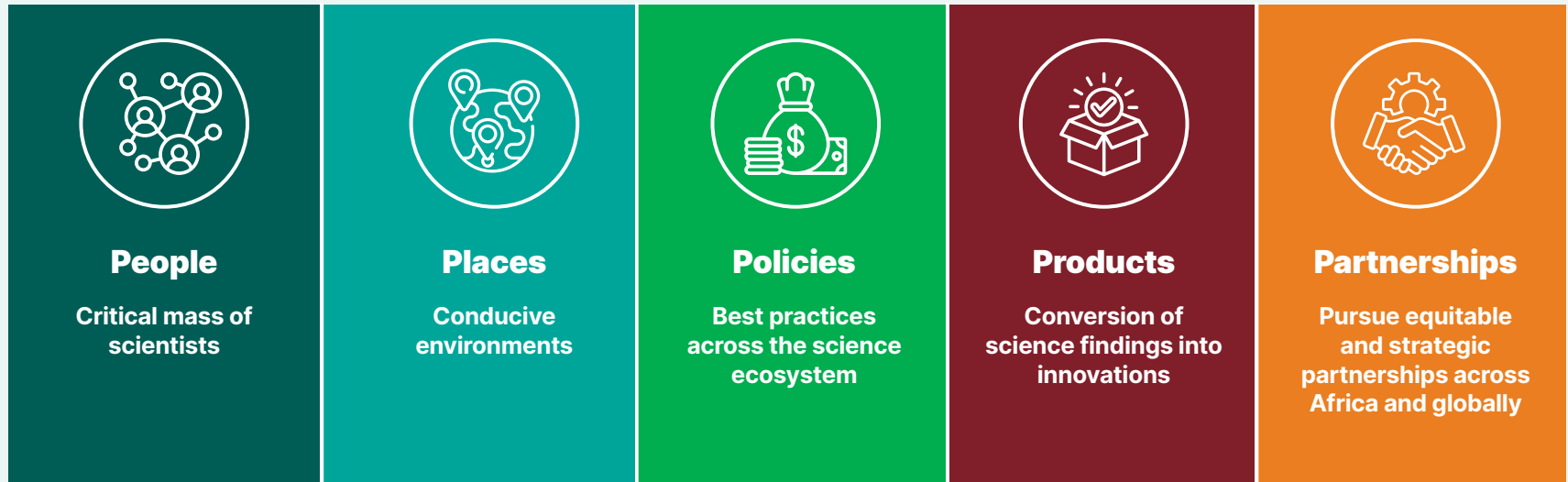
Strategic Priorities and Thematic Focus Areas

- 1 *Enable experts* to establish priorities for research
- 2 Include *all of Africa* — across economies, geographies, languages, genders and cultures
- 3 Encourage research with the potential to *improve health* and well-being in Africa
- 4 Fund sciences *across the spectrum*— from basic, discovery, molecular research to translational and implementation sciences, and clinical research and studies
- 5 Emphasise *partnerships within* the continent and across the globe to leverage African knowledge
- 6 Build visibility for African science through transparent, *open-access* research publishing and encourage *public-facing* engagement and communication
- 7 Require *accountability* to build societal support and donor confidence.



Guided by our assessment of Africa's science landscape, the SFA Foundation focuses on three key interrelated priority areas of science: Health; Agricultural; and Climate and Environmental Science.

5 Ps - Strategic Impact Areas



We engage a cross-section of science stakeholders:



Leadership and Excellence in Science

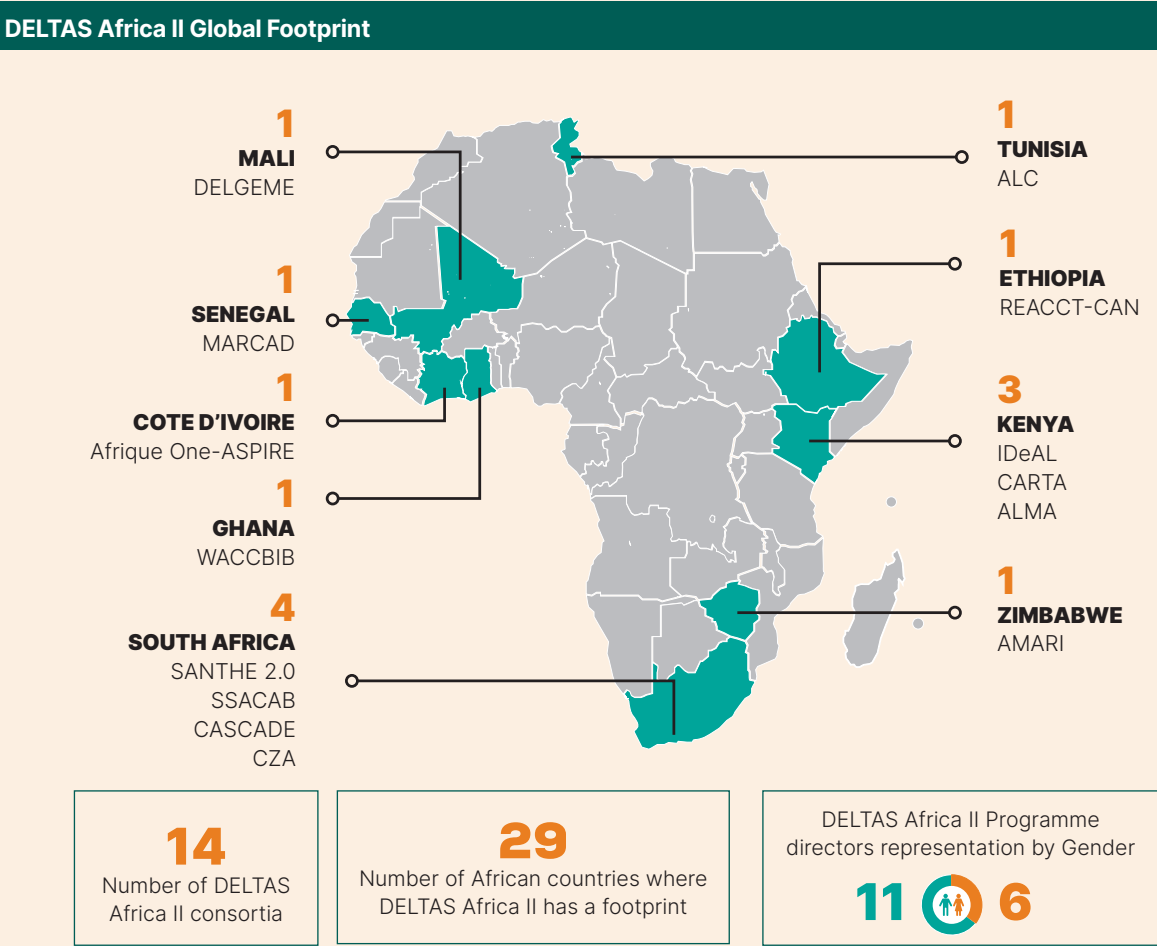


Science Leadership for Transdisciplinary Research & Development invests in long term research as well as development of leadership skills of senior scientists on the continent who in turn serve as models and mentors to others. This is achieved through the excellence of their scientific output, cultivation of partnerships and building the visibility of high-quality African research, within the global research community and in local communities. Its Initiatives include:

- 1 Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science in Africa (DELTAS Africa) — the flagship research programme of the SFA Foundation
- 2 Preparing Outstanding Social Science Investigators to Benefit Lives and Environments in Africa initiative (POSSIBLE-Africa)
- 3 The Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellowship
- 4 Mental Health R&D, including Youth Mental Health (BEING)

DELTAS Africa II

- Funds globally competitive, locally-relevant research in all regions of Africa
- Is in its ninth year funding multiyear research by some of Africa's leading research scientists
- Includes 14 consortia at 57 institutions in 29 African nations
- Is supported by major funders Wellcome and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- Oversaw consortia that attracted over \$17 million in additional funding from other sources
- Supervised, advanced, and supported 795 trainees over the year, from Master's through Postdoctoral Fellows
- Generated 249 peer-reviewed, open-access publications
- Issued two new Requests for Proposals to support 17 grantees in AI for Global Health and eight grantees in Climate & Health
- Has supported the salaries of over 200 non-research staff, building a trained research workforce environment on the continent.



The DELTAS Africa II in Numbers: 2023/24 Highlights

14

DELTA Africa II consortia in 57 African institutions across 29 countries and collaborating with global partners.



200

Number of conference presentations made by DELTA Africa II researchers in 2024, showcasing the breadth of research across consortia.

795

Total number of trainees at various levels supported, including 293 PhD and 275 Master's students.

260

Research outputs in 2024, collectively authored by DELTA Africa II trainees including 198 peer-reviewed journal articles.



\$17 M

Amount in funding consortia have secured beyond DELTA Africa II to support research and career development since 2023.

13

Number of institutions that achieved Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP) certification, ensuring greater financial accountability.

69%

DELTA Africa II Fellows hail from 29 of Africa's 54 countries, reflecting the initiative's broad reach.

477

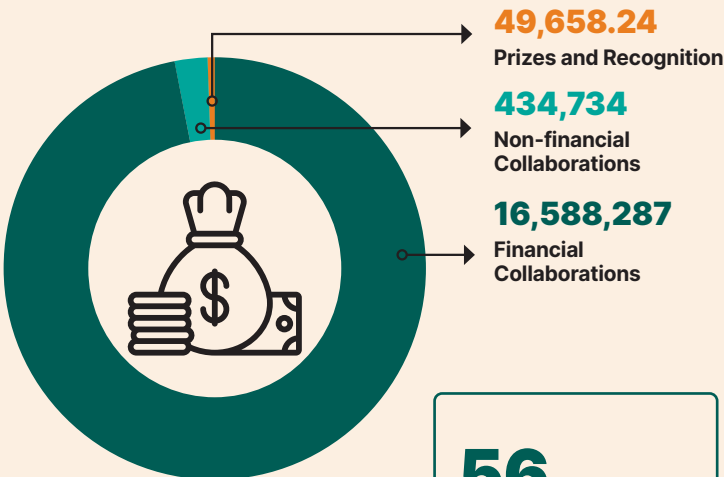
Number of DELTA Africa II initiative trainees who received direct funding through stipends and fees.

318

Number of trainees who benefited indirectly from DELTA Africa II training programmes.

DELTA Africa II Funding

Researchers within the DELTA Africa II network have attracted 56 additional grants and awards, securing an impressive \$17 million funding beyond that provided by DELTA Africa II to support research and career development.



56

Number of additional grants and awards the DELTA Africa II network have attracted

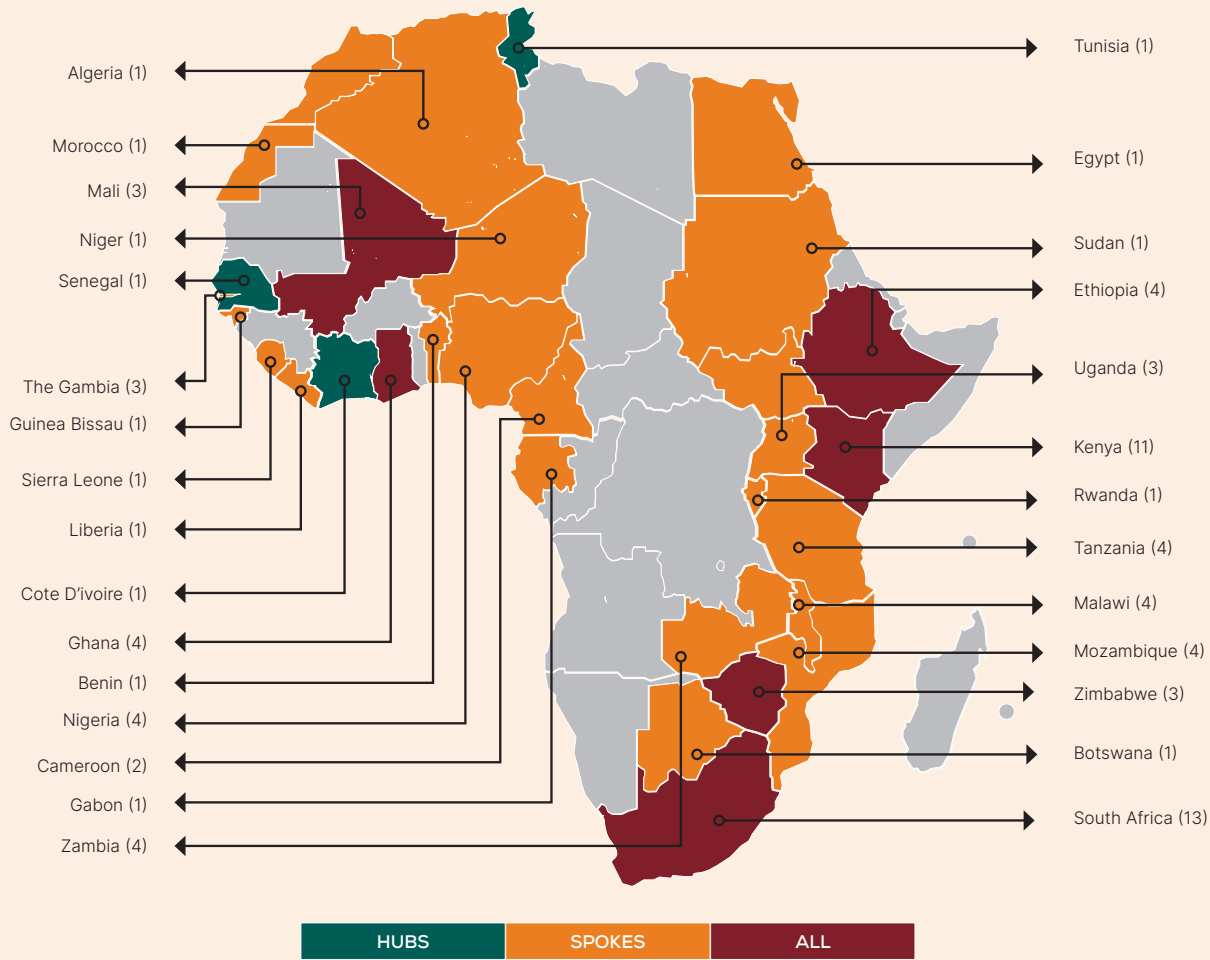
Continental Footprint of DELTAS Africa II Institutions

DELTAS Africa is built on a hub-and-spoke model where a lead institution (hub) collaborates with institutions in other countries (spokes) to apply for large research grants and implement long-term scientific research programmes.

The hub institution (Lead) is typically well-established, with experience in systems management, policymaking, and research oversight.

The central hub is usually an African research centre or university that receives funding from grant makers and manages all of the procedures surrounding the award.

Selected spokes that align with a hub, have good potential to deliver quality research and are selected based on aspects such as their training programmes or facilities and track record of grant management.



BEING Initiative



Members of the Being initiative held a workshop on 'Gauging Life Stressors and Their Impact on Youth Mental Health' in Nairobi, Kenya from 16-17 January 2024.



HOSTED BY GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA (FUNDED IN PART BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA), THIS MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE IS A PARTNERSHIP WITH FOUNDATION BOTNAR, THE UK'S NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE RESEARCH (NIHR), SFA FOUNDATION, ORYGEN, AND UNITED FOR GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH.

Dedicated to the wellBEING of youth across the developing world, the programme funds research and ecosystems focusing on the mental health of youth. The initiative will eventually support research in 13 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. It is structured on the "hub-and-spoke" training model pioneered by the SFA Foundation, distributing funds to well-established research enterprises to, in turn, support and build less-developed programmes in diverse geographies.

BEING investigators published *Meaningful Youth Engagement for a Positive Mental Health Ecosystem* in the Lancet Psychiatry during the year, and collaborated with the Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa CDC) to help develop basic youth mental health curricula for public health practitioners.

POSSIBLE Africa



The SFA Foundation held an inception meeting for its first cohort of grantees from the POSSIBLE Africa initiative in Nairobi, Kenya from 18-19 March 2024.

Funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Preparing Outstanding Social Science Investigators to Benefit Lives and Environments in Africa (POSSIBLE-Africa) initiative anchors the Social and Behavioral Sciences portfolio. It is committed to the development of excellent research in the social sciences and humanities through innovation, research, and ecosystem development. Its funding for two-year postdoctoral fellowships on the continent seeks to shift the major source of social science research away from its longtime reliance on foreign funding.



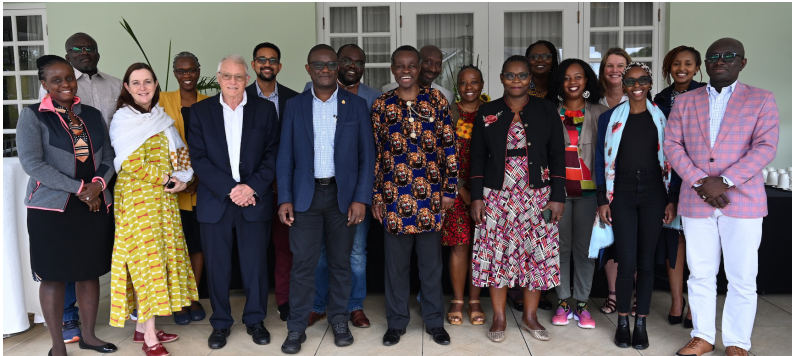
POSSIBLE AFRICA
FUNDS EXCELLENCE IN
SOCIAL SCIENCES AND
HUMANITIES RESEARCH.

Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellowship

Named after the distinguished Kenyan scientist and Harvard professor, and funded by the Gates Foundation, the Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellowship (CJSLF) was launched in 2021. It selects and supports scientific leaders as well as developing scientists across Africa to refine and amplify the voice of African science in global health communications and policy. Together, CJ Fellows form a community of global health opinion shapers and influencers.



CALESTOUS JUMA FELLOWS
REFINE AND AMPLIFY THE
VOICE OF AFRICAN SCIENCE.



CJ Fellows attend a Media and Leadership Training workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. The training was facilitated by the SFA Foundation and the African Leadership Institute (AFI) from 15-16 January 2024.



Science-based Products

This portfolio moves early-phase discoveries through the research value chain, from proof-of-concept through implementation. The ultimate goal is for translational successes to improve the lives of individuals and communities and to serve as models for policy that supports scientific research. Its premier programme is Grand Challenges Africa, which drives innovation by awarding seed and start-up grants to fund big, bold, innovative ideas that have the potential to contribute significantly to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





MOVING EARLY PHASE
DISCOVERIES THROUGH THE
ENTIRE RESEARCH VALUE
CHAIN, FROM PROOF OF
CONCEPT TO TRANSLATION,
EVENTUALLY MAKING
PRODUCTS AVAILABLE.



Grand Challenges Africa

- Seeks to build a robust science innovation ecosystem in Africa to drive economic growth, create knowledge jobs, and improve the health and lives of millions.
- Identifies big, high-risk/high-reward innovative ideas with the potential for sustainability and scalability.
- Funded 24 grantees over the year across broad areas such as COVID-19, child, neonatal & maternal health, drug discovery, climate & agriculture, and nonhormonal contraception for women.
- Serves as a model to seven African countries that operate national GC Africa initiatives.
- Extends the exemplary work of 24 researchers from early-stage to transition-to-scale in the critical areas of agriculture and climate.
- Incentivises African nations to fund Research & Innovation through cost-sharing.



FUNDED BY THE GATES
FOUNDATION GRAND
CHALLENGES AFRICA
FOCUSES ON HIGH-RISK/
HIGH-REWARD INNOVATION.

114

Number of
grantees from
27 countries on
the continent
successfully
onboarded.

\$4M

Amount in grant
funding African
GC countries have
committed for their
scientists with a
focus on important
priorities.

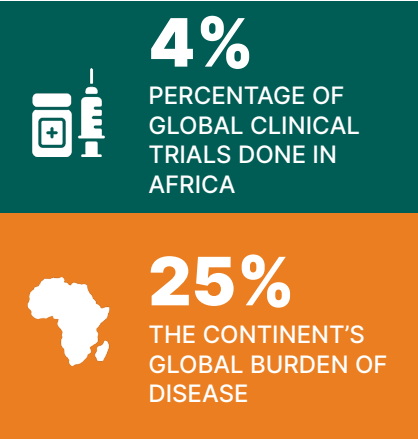
\$60M


Amount the
initiative has raised
so far to support
seed and transition
to scale innovation
grants.




Clinical Research and Trials Community (CRTC)

There is a long history of essential clinical trials being restricted to the developed world. Only 4% of all clinical trials worldwide are conducted in Africa, even though Africa accounts for 25% of the global burden of disease. The dominance of non-African clinical trials has greatly limited the ability to apply the results of such trials to people in Africa, because of genetic, ecosystem, cultural, and phenotypical differences that directly impact the efficacy of pharmaceuticals. To address this gap, CRTC invests in creating a sustainable clinical trials ecosystem in Africa.






Supports the *Clinical Trials Community* platform, a comprehensive online resource for those operating and seeking to operate clinical trials across Africa. It provides data-centric, country-specific regulatory requirements, and access to national regulatory agencies, mapping and updating data on 3,600 clinical research centres, 612 laboratories, four clinical research networks, 56 national regulators and 177 ethics committees across Africa.



Provides scientific coordination for the *Clinical Trials Community Africa Network (CTCAN)*, which acts as a “network of networks” for clinical research stakeholders in Africa, serving diverse stakeholders from the pharmaceutical industry, academia and the technology sector working in infectious and noncommunicable disease. It hosted a strategic summit with the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).



Builds capacity for clinical trials through the *Cross Pharma Capacity Development Initiative (CPCDI)* which seeks to increase high-quality clinical trials conducted in Africa.



DATA FROM CLINICAL TRIALS IS UPDATED AND 3600 CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTRES ARE MAPPED



A “NETWORK OF NETWORKS” FOR STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS AFRICA



BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CLINICAL TRIALS ON THE CONTINENT

Science Solutions for Emerging Global Priorities

These programmes position African science to be prepared for emerging threats and health challenges of global significance, including endemic, emerging and re-emerging diseases as well as threats to the environment and planetary health.



DEVELOPING ROBUST
STRATEGIES TO
ADDRESS EMERGING
SCIENCE PRIORITIES
THAT ARE CRITICAL
BEYOND JUST AFRICA.



Africa Pandemic Sciences Collaborative

EPSILON Global Footprint

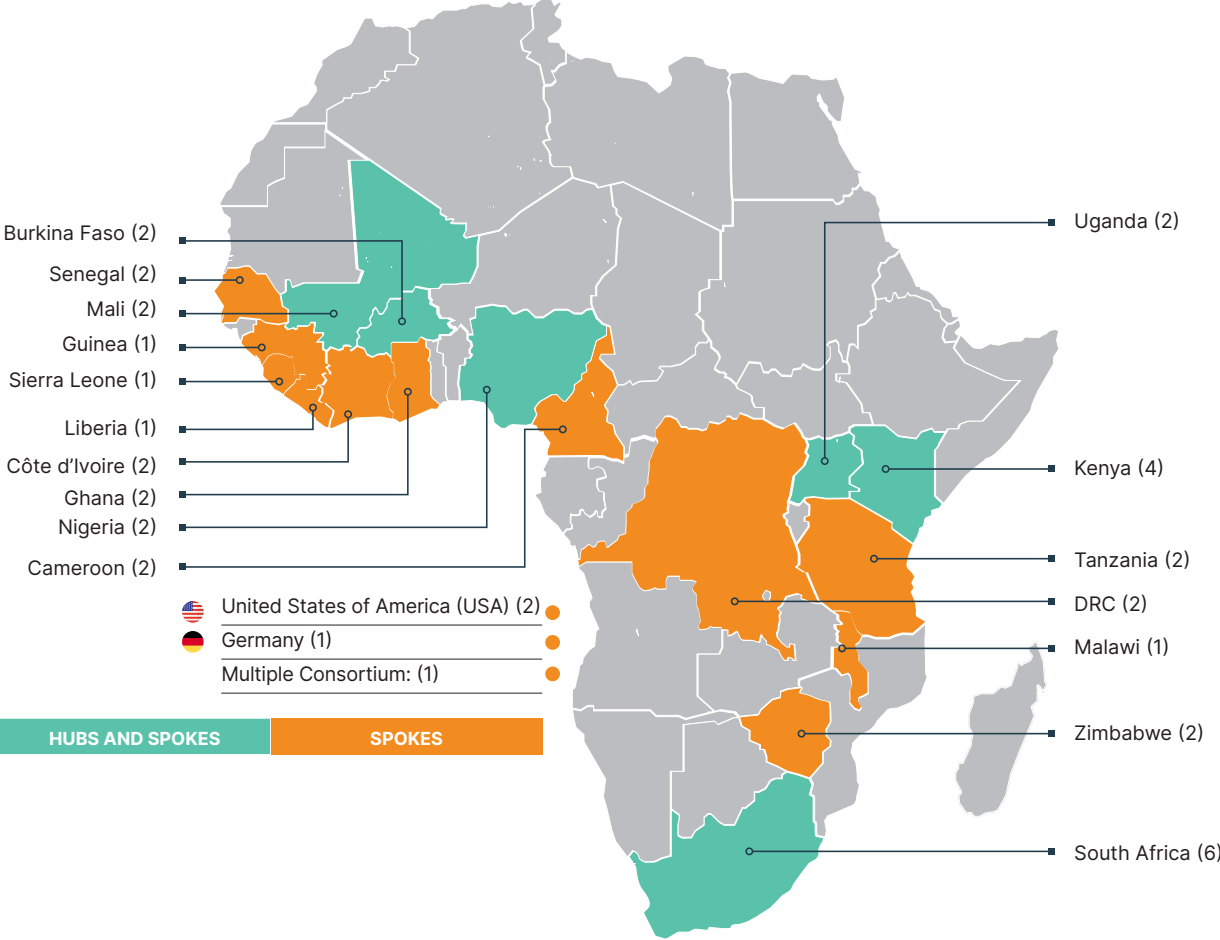
The Africa Pandemic Sciences Collaborative seeks to nurture and equip an emerging generation of young African scientists to tackle epidemic and pandemic threats — today and in the future. Through world-class, interdisciplinary research and strong mentorship from senior African scientists the Collaborative is building a critical mass of high-calibre researchers on the continent. The goal is to help create pathways to dignified and fulfilling careers in life sciences, while strengthening Africa's ability to predict, prevent and respond to public health crises.

Distribution by Country

Total Unique Institutions: 38

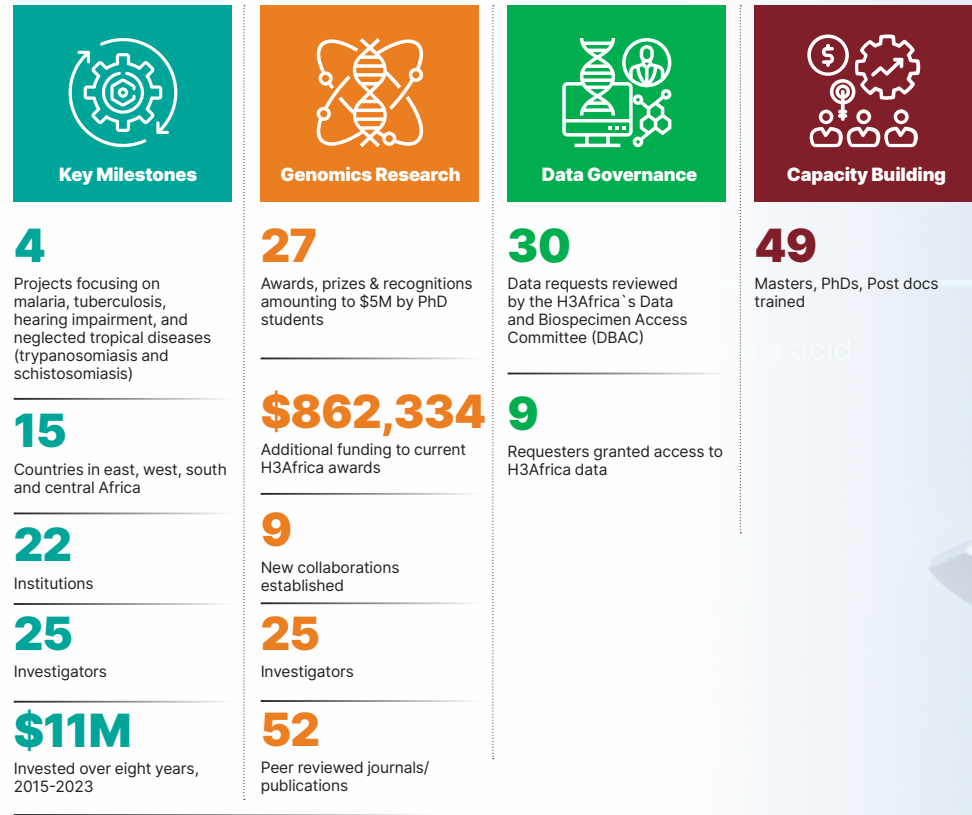
Note: some institutions represented more than once in some EPSILONS e.g. WITS and KEMRI

Distribution: South Africa: 6, Kenya: 4, Ghana: 2, Nigeria: 2, Uganda: 2, Zimbabwe: 2, Tanzania: 2, Senegal: 2, USA: 2, Côte d'Ivoire: 2, DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo): 2, Mali: 2, Cameroon: 2, Burkina Faso: 1, Guinea: 1, Italy: 1, Liberia: 1, Malawi: 1, Germany: 1, Multiple (Consortium): 1



Human Heredity & Health in Africa (H3A)

Africa has the greatest genetic diversity of any continent in the world. At the same time, it is disproportionately affected by major diseases and environmental exposures. H3 Africa seeks to uncover the continent's genetic diversity to increase prevention and treatment of disease in Africa. It is a partnership with SFA Foundation, the African Society of Human Genetics, the U.S. National Institutes of Health and Wellcome.



Climate, Health, Agriculture, and Biodiversity (C-HAB)

C-HAB focuses on the effects of climate change on health, agriculture and biodiversity. It seeks to inform policy in this important area with scientific data.

Through this broad science area, the SFA Foundation seeks to bring biodiversity genomics and bioinformatics practises closer to the African people whilst linking it to local biodiversity knowledge.



The C-HAB team in strategic discussions with Ecosystems, Finance and Health (EFH) in developing a zero draft strategic plan rooted in shared values, joint objectives and mutual learning and benefits. The discussions took place from 7-8 November 2024.



The Africa Bio-Genome Project (ABP)

The Africa Bio-Genome Project (Africa BP) is a network of practitioners in genetics and related fields. They are building capacity and infrastructure to generate, analyse and deploy genomics data to help conserve, improve and build the sustainability of biodiversity and agriculture across Africa.

AfricaBP's role is to support the technical and scientific work on biodiversity genomics across Africa including capacity building, workshops, and organising the Annual African Congress on Biodiversity Genomics. With SFA Foundation's support in programme management, AfricaBP aims to sequence the genomes of 105,000 endemic African species -- plants, animals, fungi, protists, and other eukaryotes. This genomic data will inform conservation efforts and sustainable use of biodiversity and agriculture across Africa.



IN ADDITION TO PRESERVING THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF THE CONTINENT'S SPECIES, PROTECTING AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY IS PARAMOUNT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Africa BP Project research priorities

- 1 Promote studies of optimal preservation of the biodiversity of plants, animals, fungi, protists and microbes present in our ecosystems, also directly applicable to global SDGs.
- 2 Coordinate existing and new SFA Foundation/AfricaBP partnerships for non-human genome sequencing initiatives across Africa.
- 3 Provide sequencing data to regional biobanks and other continental agencies, including the African Union Inter-Africa Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), to inform policies on biodiversity and capacity building in genomic sciences.
- 4 Leverage biodiversity in Africa by delivering interventions that address climate challenges, in turn strengthening agri-food systems and sustainable health interventions.
- 5 Advocate for the protection of an African biodiversity landscape as a shared global heritage for current and future generations.

Science Knowledge in Society

Science Communication

Through funding from Wellcome and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, the most visible outputs are successful public and policy-facing articles that showcase the evidence-based work of SFA Foundation-funded programmes and grantees. African and global periodicals that have particularly increased and improved the visibility of SFA Foundation-funded programmes have included *The East African*, *The Standard*, *Business Daily*, *Nature*, and *PLOS*.

Subjects have included:

- 1 Research procurement and Innovative funding systems to counter inequities in African science
- 2 The role of pathogen research labs in the protection of global health security
- 3 The reluctance of research funders to support volatile countries and why it must be countered
- 4 A progress report on the development of an HIV vaccine
- 5 How weaknesses in the laboratory supply chain cripple African science and the role of AI in African science.



SFA Foundation staff undergo training in science communication with facilitators from the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science based at Stony Brook University in New York, USA. The training took place from 16-20 September 2024.

Science Prioritisation & Policy Engagement for Africa (SPEAR)

Based on the premise that policy support of Research & Innovation is a critical avenue to improve the lives of individuals and societies, over the year this programme has:

- 1 *Prioritised* informing policy for *Artificial Intelligence* by *engaging* multilingual convenings across multiple African nations in four continental regions to help map data gaps in AI policy
- 2 *Partnered* with the African Union, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and the Malawi Ministry of Education and its National Commission for Science & Technology
- 3 *Coordinated* across SFA Foundation programmes, including DELTAS Africa and BEING, to leverage data integration to improve insights and increase visibility.



INFORMING POLICY FOR
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
HAS BECOME A PRIORITY FOR
AFRICA.



The SPEAR team convened several meetings both physical and online across multiple African nations in four continental regions to help map data gaps in AI policy.



Public Engagement with Science (PES)

PES encourages meaningful communication, participation and dialogue across multiple science and non-science communities, so all stakeholders in the advancement of science in Africa can learn from the insights, perspectives and priorities of others.



SUCCESS DEPENDS ON MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATION, PARTICIPATION AND DIALOGUE ACROSS SCIENCE AND NON-SCIENCE COMMUNITIES.



- 1

Awarded 17 Community Engagement in Research awards to existing SFA Foundation grantees.
- 2

Partnered with the WHO to operationalise the World Health Assembly resolution (WHA75.8) on Strengthening clinical trials to provide high-quality evidence on health interventions. The focus was on patient, community and public engagement.
- 3

Invited by the SADC region representative to ICH to participate in public consultations and provide comments on the ICH-E6 (R3) guidelines, also known as Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guidelines. Contributions focused on community and public engagement in clinical trials.



Public engagement practitioners drawn from the 14 DELTAS Africa II consortia during a two day CPE workshop held at Villa Rosa Kempinski in Nairobi from 23-24 April 2024.

Africa Research Management Capacity Strengthening Programme (REMACS)

REMACS seeks to systematically transform the African research ecosystem through research management interventions:

- 1 Providing institutional leadership support for sustainable research and innovation management
- 2 Developing globally recognised management standards and validating institutions that meet those standards
- 3 Supporting efforts to professionalise research and innovation management careers in Africa

REMACS partnered with the African Organisation for Standards (ARSO) for a Good Research Management Practice (GRMP) Standard effort with representation from 18 African countries, providing a platform for advocacy for excellence in research management on the continent. It published an article on the pitfalls of procurement in Africa that was published in *Nature*.



REMACS SYSTEMATICALLY
TRANSFORMS THE RESEARCH
MANAGEMENT ECOSYSTEM IN AFRICA.



Members of ARSO Project Committee on Research Management during the Good Research Management Practice (GRMP) Standard Task Group meeting in Nanyuki, Kenya from 26-28 March 2024.

Financial Highlights

The global accounting firm Ernst & Young, LLP submitted its audited report of Science for Africa Foundation financials for the fiscal year 2024, which was accepted by the Board of Directors and signed by the Chair of the Board on 14 May 2025. In its unqualified audit, E&Y indicated that, “the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Science for Africa Foundation as of 31 December 2024, and it’s [sic] financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.”

The SFA Foundation Income Statement and Balance Sheet reflect the organisation’s revenues of **\$29,718,183** for the year.

	2024	2023
	USD	USD
	Total	Total
INCOME		
Restricted Income	28,356,117	13,001,666
Unrestricted Income	1,086,235	385,948
Other income	275,831	194,449
Total Income	29,718,183	13,582,063
EXPENSES		
Programme Costs	19,901,504	6,489,993
Employee Costs	3,967,203	3,007,539
Administrative expenses	4,701,321	3,461,035
Governance Costs	149,587	57,211
Total expenses	28,719,615	13,015,778
Surplus for the period	998,568	566,285

Financial Highlights

	2024	2023
	USD	USD
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property and equipment	109,363	82,821
Intangible asset	<u>2,382</u>	<u>3,573</u>
Total non-current assets	111,745	86,394
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	16,103,664	10,845,104
Trade and other receivables	254,487	250,605
Grant receivable	<u>404,975</u>	<u>53,512</u>
Total current assets	16,763,126	11,149,221
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>16,874,871</u>	<u>11,235,615</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	639,833	231,044
Other payable - indirect taxes	20,344	57,013
Deferred income	<u>14,365,241</u>	<u>10,122,024</u>
Total current liabilities	15,025,418	10,410,081
Fund balances		
General fund	1,737,708	739,140
Capital fund	<u>111,745</u>	<u>86,394</u>
Total fund balances	1,849,453	825,534
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>16,874,871</u>	<u>11,235,615</u>



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