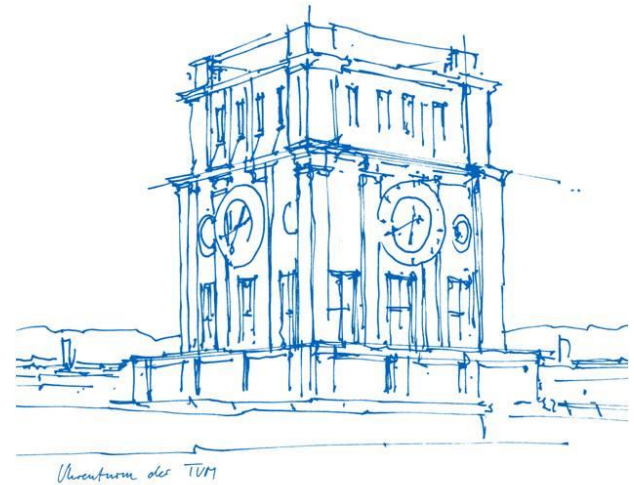


# ***DASH* approach to designing and evaluating community-based health and nutrition interventions and policies in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Michael Laxy

Professorship of Public Health and Prevention  
Technical University of Munich



# What is DASH?

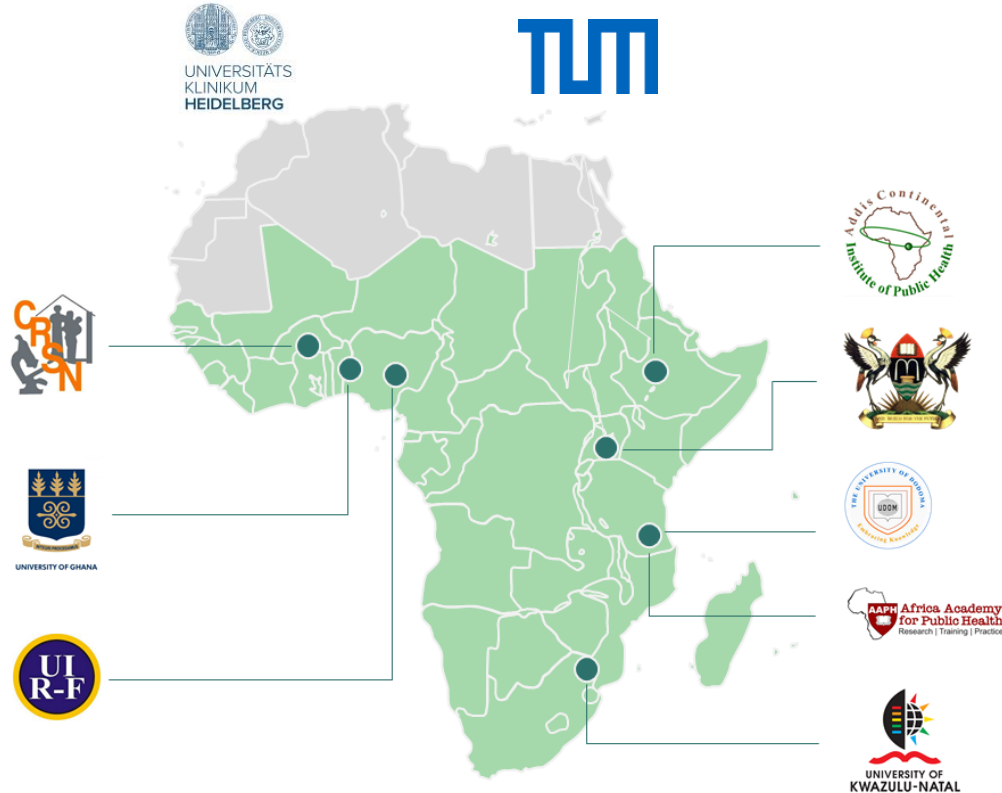


## DASH\*

Research network for **D**esign and evaluation of **A**dolescent health interventions and policies in **S**ub-Sa**H**aran Africa

*\*Expected to be funded under the call for African-German Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa (RHISSA) of the German Ministry of Education and Research*

# The DASH Network



- **DASH** brings together researchers in epidemiology, public health, and population health science from seven countries in SSA (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda) and Germany.
- **Focus:** Adolescent health
- **Time horizon:** 2023-2028
- **Lead:** AAPH

- Adolescence is a critical stage of life when important physical, cognitive and social developments take place
- These developments and behaviors determine and shape behaviors well into adulthood
- Insufficient knowledge how we can positively influence these developments

## Aims

- **A)** Determine the key health risk factors and intervention needs through surveys embedded in existing HDSS
- **B)** Establish the impacts and mechanisms of adolescent health literacy interventions using RCTs nested within HDSS
- **C)** Establish the impacts and mechanisms of key national and regional health policies in SSA using quasi-experimental study designs

### In three domains

- › Nutrition and physical activity
- › Sexual reproductive health
- › Mental health and violence

### Intervention and policy research

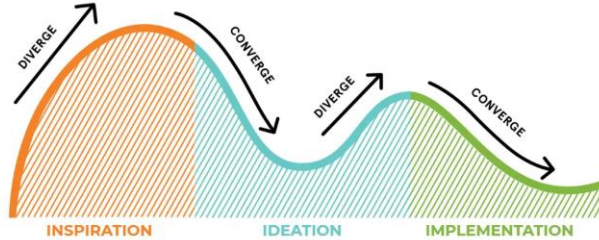
- › Design
- › Evaluation
- › Transportability

# Infrastructure and overview



	2017	2019	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Partner HDSS	7 HDSS population-based cohorts 50,000 - 200,000 individuals per cohort							Existing HDSS infrastructure
ACIPH								
CRSN	ARISE adolescent survey, Wave 1 N=8,075	ARISE adolescent survey, Wave 1 N=8,075						
MakSPH								
UDOM								
UG								
UIRF								
UKZN								

## Step 1: Design interventions



## Step 2: Test interventions in RCTs



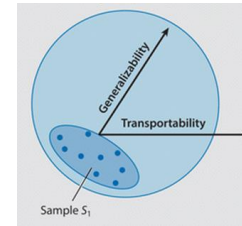
## Step 1: Prioritize relevant policies



## Step 2: Evaluate policies



## Step 3: Assess transportability



# Sustainable societal impact

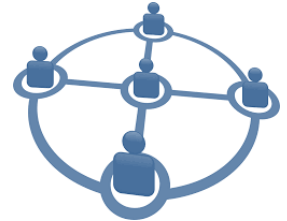
## Invest in capacity building and training

- Train and mentor population and public health researchers and leaders
- On research and administrative level, on individual and institutional level
- Activities: online and in person training courses



## Build and strengthen networks

- Connect researchers to assure sustainability of activities
- South – North, across SSA region
- Activities: Adolescent youth board, PhD network, annual network meetings



## Involve key stakeholders

- Maximize the relevance and the transfer of evidence to policy and practice
- Activities: Africa Public Health Think Tank, adolescent health conferences





# Thank You



ARISE –  
DASH/NUTRINT  
Meeting Jan 2023

## Professorship for Public Health & Prevention

Technische Universität München  
Georg-Brauchle-Ring 60/62  
80992 München

<https://www.sg.tum.de/php/startseite/>

 @TUMPublicHealth

---

**Prof. Dr. Michael Laxy**

Tel: +49 (0) 89 / 289 24977  
[michael.laxy@tum.de](mailto:michael.laxy@tum.de)