



Irish African Partnership for Research Capacity Building

*Harnessing Knowledge
for Poverty Reduction*

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EUA – Oslo 25th Feb 2010

Project Overview



Aims

- To build an inter-institutional network of development studies in Ireland, in partnership with four African institutions
- To assess and build capacity for development research within each of the partner institutions

Co-Funding: Irish Aid (85%); Universities Ireland (15%)

Core themes : Health and Education

Cross cutting themes : Gender and ICT

Project staff

- Manager + part-time administrator
- 3 post-doctoral researchers (health, education, ICT)

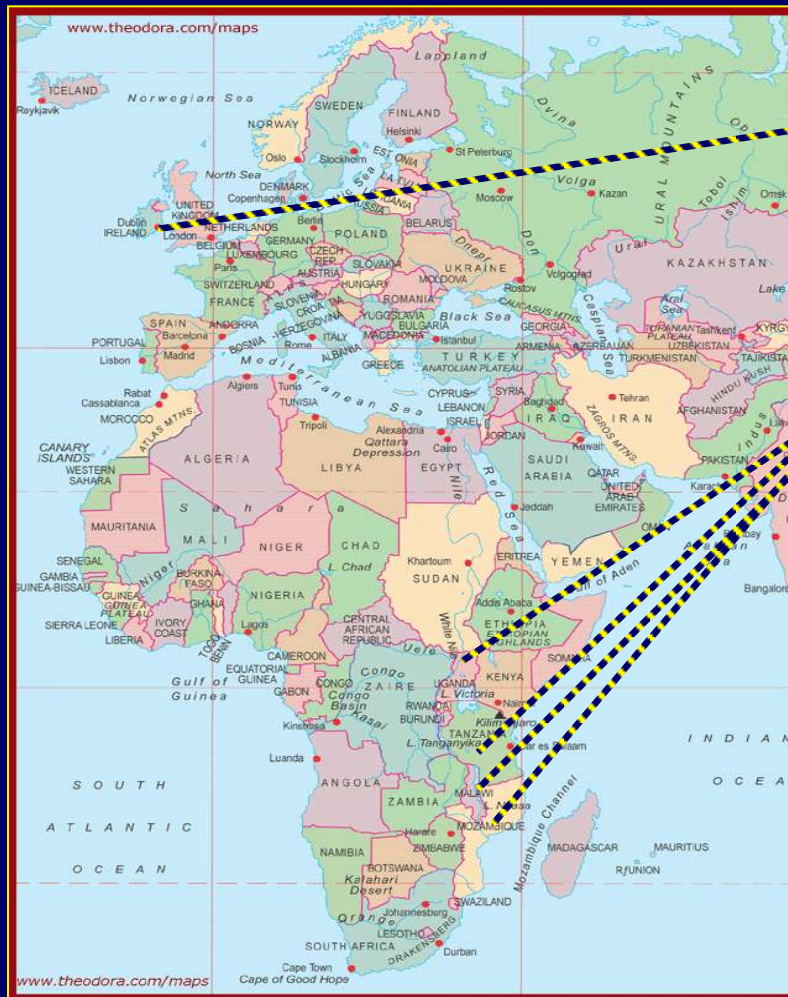


Irish Aid's Programme Objectives for Strategic Cooperation with HE

I. To facilitate the establishment of collaborative partnerships within and between HEIs and research institutes in Ireland and in countries benefiting from Irish Aid support by 2013

II. To support capacity building in HEIs and research institutions in key poverty related thematic areas in Ireland and countries benefiting from Irish Aid support by 2013

IAP Project Aims



- To build individual & institutional capacity in development research in the Irish universities
- To build capacity in health, education, gender and ICT research with the four partner African universities
- In the longer term, to develop an inter-institutional Irish-African development research platform

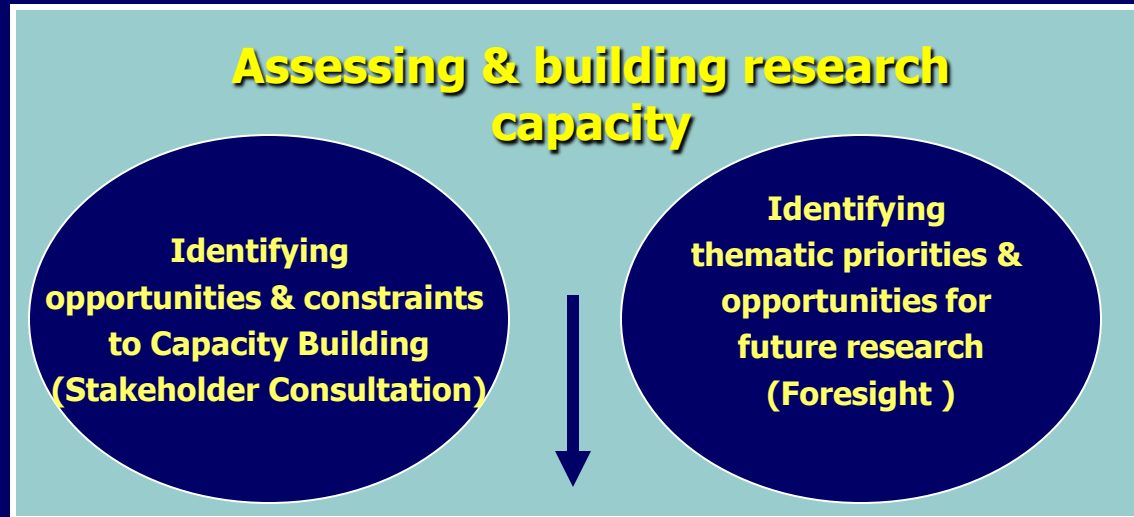
IAP Project 'Philosophy'

- RCB contributing to poverty reduction and the MDGs
- Globalisation reflected in stronger collaboration between HEIs N & S
- Global Sustainable Development requires full participation by Africa in the 'knowledge society'
- HEIs as generators of evidence-based research, policy advice and training relevant to 'development agenda'
- HEIs strengthen civil society and reflective public policy networking with local communities and NGOs.

Why focus on Africa?

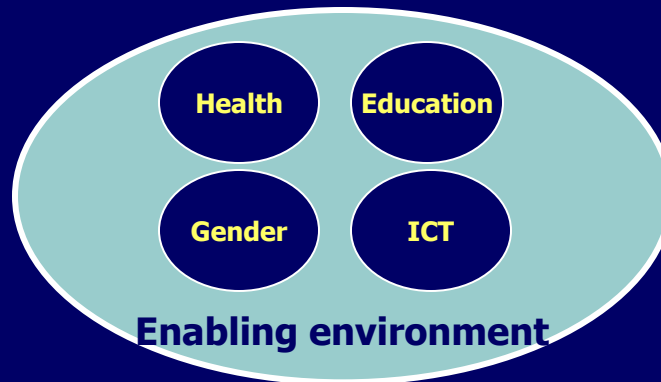
- Universities in the post-colonial nations have active PhD/postdoc programmes, but less so in Africa
- Perception of PhDs as a 'luxury' compared to basic education
- Legacy of chronic neglect and under-funding of 3rd level in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in the 1980s and 1990s
- Library, IT and laboratory infrastructures are generally poor.
- Rewards in academia seen as meagre and many researchers joined the 'brain drain'.

IAP Project Strategy



**Measuring research capacity
(Metrics)**

Web portal



**Development
Research Platform**

IAP's Priorities

Visibility/Recognition

- Implement RCB plan developed in partnership with HEA/Irish Aid
- Concerted drive by development champions across the HE system

Mainstream/Embed

- From "Development research" to "Research for Development"
- Embed in university institutional strategies and implement

Sustainability / Continuity

- Work with HEA/Irish Aid to establish secretariat/institute/network to act as a "clearing house" for development research for poverty reduction
- Promote research capacity building, host Irish Development Web portal and act as voice for HE in development co-operation

IAP Project Milestones

<i>Launch: Dublin (April 2008)</i>	Assessment of research capacity in African universities
<i>Entebbe Workshop (Nov 2008)</i>	Present Stakeholder Report Towards a common understanding of RCB and partnership approach
<i>Maputo Workshop (May 2009)</i>	Finalise Foresight / forge research partnerships in health and education fields
<i>Dublin Workshop (Oct 2009)</i>	Meeting of Research Vice Presidents / Research Office heads to agree Malawi programme
<i>Malawi Summer School (March 2010)</i>	Skills training in sourcing and managing research contract awards, 'training the trainers'. Wider dissemination via training package -DVD+manual
<i>Final conference – Belfast (Sept 2010)</i>	Final Report – Strategic Plan for RCB in Ireland for Africa Launch of 'successor' to IAP

Deliverables by end 2010



Stakeholder Analysis

Complete

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Funding opportunities**
- **Policy relevance**
- **Global research**
- **Socially relevant research**

CONSTRAINTS

- **Weak Institutional Support**
- **Visibility of development research**
- **Policy research not valued**
- **Travel/language**



'Key informant' comments

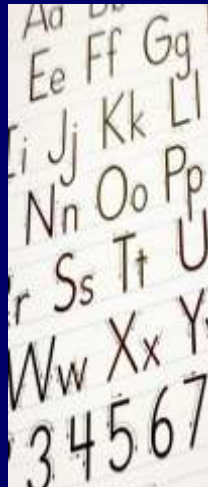
- Irish HEIs' development research capacity is scattered – resides in individuals, not institutions; not dynamic enough
- Promoting applied, 'demand-driven' (not 'interest driven') research, with a focus on social change.
- Interconnectedness - problems of the developing world are not isolated from wider global issues
- Longer term partnerships e.g. 5 or 6 years
- Lack of engagement between development researchers in academia and development practitioners
- Africa has serious dearth of, and need for, research expertise in **public policy analysis**.
- Most of the postgrad research undertaken has little relevance to policy, and is not linked to national priorities

Foresight Exercise

Complete

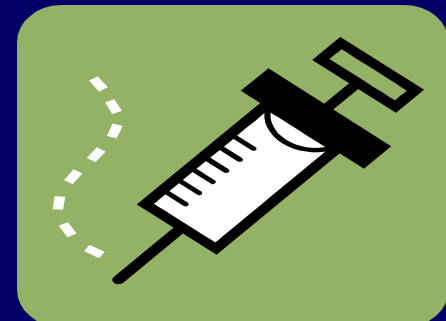
Education Opportunities

- Initial teacher education
- Education for sustainable development
- Education in disadvantaged communities/diversity agenda
- Curriculum development reform
- Improving education delivery/ICT

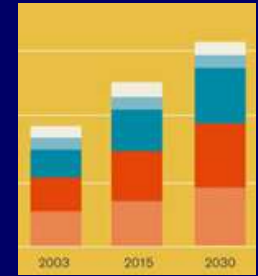


Health Opportunities

- Infectious diseases – HIV/AIDS
- Maternal Health
- Food Security
- Climate Change
- Gender & health



Metrics



- **How do we measure research capacity in African institutions?**
- **How do we monitor progress in research capacity building?**
- **Qualitative and quantitative measurement of Research Capacity Building partnerships**

IAP Web Portal

Welcome to the Irish-African Partnership | The Irish-African Partnership - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.irishafricanpartnership.ie/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Welcome to the Irish-African Partnership | The Irish-A...

Content management Site building Site configuration User management Reports Help

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The Irish-African Partnership

For Research Capacity Building

IAP Home Digital Repository Forum Research Register My account

Welcome to the Irish-African Partnership

View Edit Track

Welcome to the **Irish-African Partnership for Research Capacity Building (IAP for short)**. This is a three year pilot project (2008-2010) to bring together all nine universities on the island of Ireland and universities in *Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda* in a unique, high-level partnership to develop a coordinated approach to research capacity building in order to make an effective contribution to the reduction of poverty. The IAP was developed under the auspices of *Universities Ireland*, which also provides some match funding.

The IAP is largely funded by the Irish Government's development cooperation programme, *Irish Aid*.

The IAP's work is based around five workshops in *Dublin, Entebbe, Maputo, Zomba and Belfast*. **The most recent workshop took place in Maputo, Mozambique on 11-14 May 2009.**

Other key elements are a *foresight exercise* to identify the main health and education priorities in Africa over the next 10 years; and an unprecedented *stakeholder consultation*

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- My account
- Create content

start Internet Mail Server HEA Microsoft PowerPoint Welcome to the Irish-African Partnership

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After IAP– Irish Global Development Forum

- To promote North South sustainable long term institutional partnerships for capacity building for research + learning
- To promote Irish higher education engagement with poverty reduction oriented research
- To act as a ‘clearing house’ for development research and reduce transaction costs for HEIs in global South
- To update the open-access information gateway / web portal and sustain research training workshops
- To promote inter-institutional consortia to bid for EU and other multilateral funding calls
- To seek support for an Irish Aid Challenge Fund for Southern led research proposals

Entebbe & Maputo 2008-2009

