

Challenges in building capacity: enhancing capacity, difficulties, solutions and challenges

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Discussion

- Innovative ways of enhancing capacity drawing lessons:
 - TDR's research and capacity dev. Strategy
 - Distance Learning
 - Research ethics in Malawi

Recommendations

- Building on country networks where these exist
- CD is an expensive process that requires increased collaboration and joint efforts with like minded organisation to minimize increased complexity and fragmentation
- The host African countries need to be involved (genuine partnership) both in resource mobilisation and priority setting
- Pay attention to regional variation in capacity and competences and encourage networking and mentorship schemes
- Need to scale up empowerment African scientists through training and mentorship schemes aiming at improved capability, active engagement, quality, good negotiation skills, decision making and leadership
- Encourage focused well defined lines of research with good monitoring and evaluation: clear milestones, quantifiable indicators of performance/impact

Recommendation

- Need to promote best practices and encourage quality control / accreditation schemes
- Encourage innovative collaborative work between Francophone, Anglophone and Lutherphone institutions
- Improve institutional infrastructure including IT support: Distance learning in resource poor countries
- Staff retention: improved pay, creation of critical mass, enabling environment

Recommendations

- Promotion of dissemination of research findings to communities
- Development of public sensitization program on research