

What is ESSENCE?

**Enhancing Support for
Strengthening the
Effectiveness of National
Capacity Efforts**

ESSENCE for health research

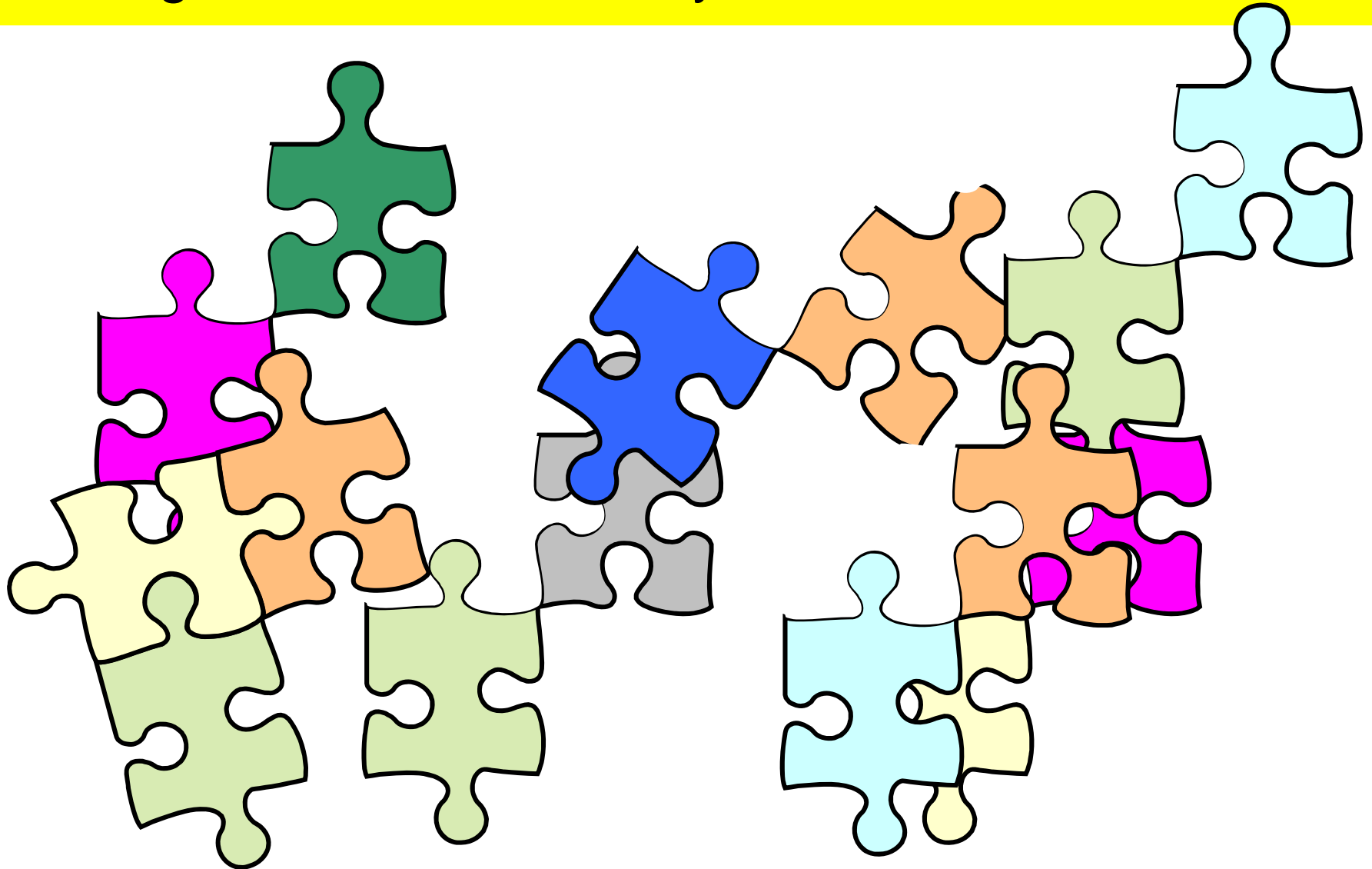
- Is a collaborative framework between funding agencies (development agencies, philanthropists, charities and multilateral initiatives) which aims to:
 - providing synergy to address research capacity needs;
 - improving the impact of investment in institutions and enabling mechanisms;
 - addressing identified needs and priorities within national strategies on research for health.

WHY ESSENCE?

- The research capacity and conditions for doing research need strengthening in Africa
- There are many efforts, but these tend to be fragmented and may not achieve sustainable impact when each funding agency works alone
- The Paris Declaration for Aid effectiveness provides guidelines for interaction between countries and those who provide funding

Fragmented Research capacity funding

-Fragmentation caused by both funders & countries



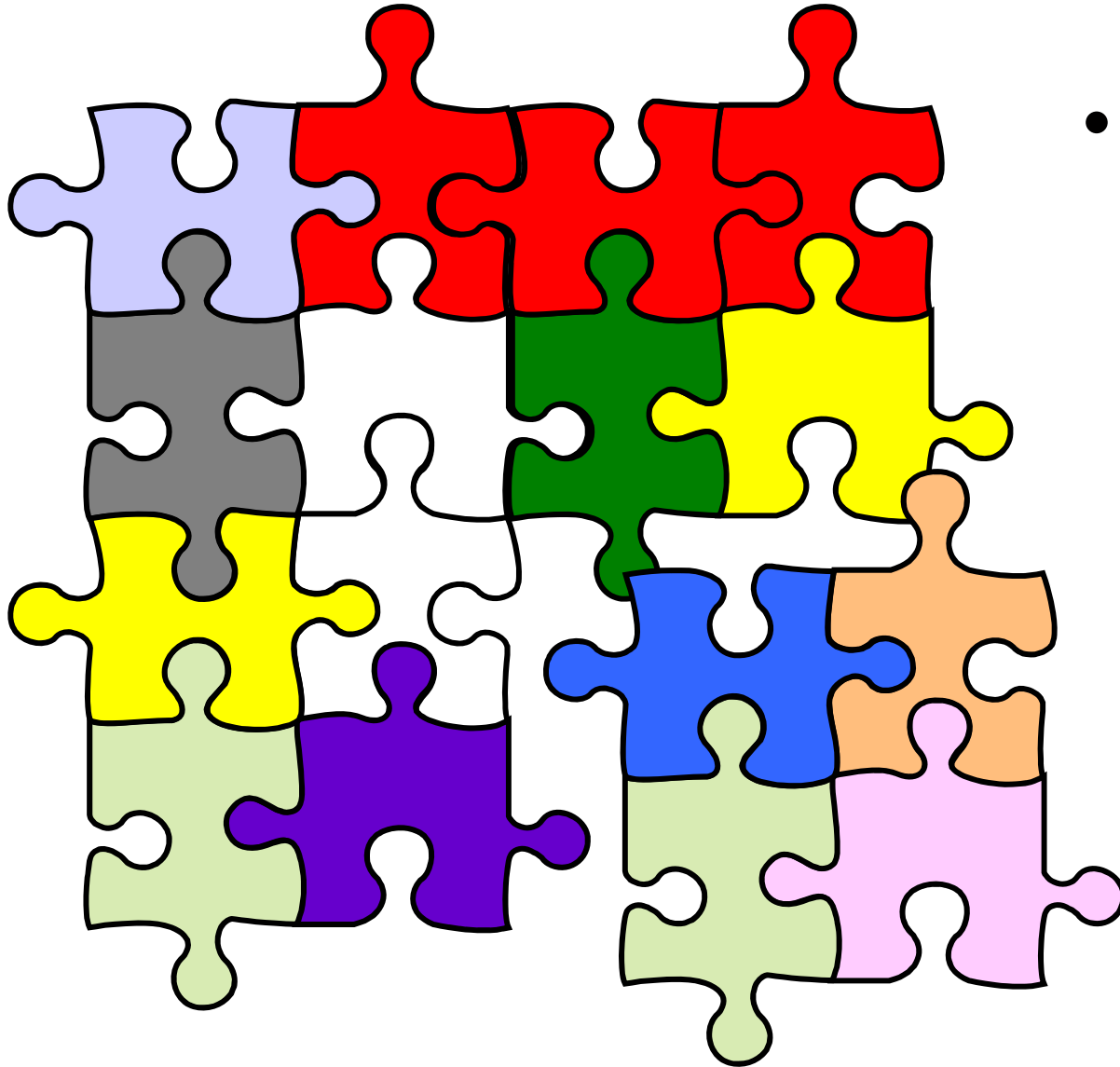
Paris Agenda - ***Harmonisation***

- *Donors' actions are more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective*

Paris Agenda - ***Alignment***

- *Donors base their overall support on partner countries' national development strategies, institutions and procedures*

Research capacity needs



- Endeavouring to limit the fragmentation in the still limited research capacity strengthening that is supported

Harmonisation and Alignment

- sector-wide approach activities in country

- In most African countries the push for sector-wide approach, notably in the health and education sectors is advocated, to achieve harmonisation and alignment of efforts
 - In these apparently successful approaches Donor-working-groups exist to help in coordinating and harmonising the efforts of the donors

Harmonisation and Alignment

- when research is not a sector in country

- Research is rarely a sector in most African countries
- Research is seldom supported by African country-based foreign Embassies/Agencies
- The majority of research supported in African is from funders and agencies whose management and coordination are based at their headquarters

Harmonisation and Alignment - of research capacity strengthening when research is not a sector in country

- Harmonisation, alignment and coordination of efforts for research capacity for health cannot be organised in the same way as for other sectors
- **ESSENCE** was initiated to find mechanisms for such efforts

Diversity in capacity for research for health in low income countries

- It is important to distinguish the needs of countries who have attained their targets for research capacity with those who are struggling to attain such targets
- Emphasis of **ESSENCE** is on low income countries in Africa with insufficient capacity for research for health

Current members of ESSENCE

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Commonwealth secretariat/ Assoc. Commonwealth Univ.
- The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)
- EDCTP
- FIOCRUZ, Brazil
- Fogarty International, NIH, USA
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute, USA
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- NEPAD Science, Technology & Innovation
- Netherlands Research Council, Science for Global Development (NWO/WOTRO)
- Norwegian, Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Wellcome Trust
- TDR

Who should join ESSENCE?

- Is open for all funders, bilateral development agencies, philanthropists, charities etc. who support or are interested in supporting **research capacity in low income countries in Africa**