



HEALTH
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AGRICULTURE
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNANCE
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Development partnerships in higher education

Case studies

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1 EDUCATION

Strengthening and expanding psychology curriculum in Cambodia

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Strengthening and expanding psychology curriculum in Cambodia

Cambodia's higher education system has been severely affected by the country's recent past. Universities were closed during the Khmer Rouge regime and many academics were killed. The Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia's oldest and largest university, was closed between 1975 and 1979. The Royal University began to resume its work in the 1980s with the help of a small number of dedicated people. Academics who work in Cambodia now have struggled to achieve their higher level qualifications, mostly by leaving the country to study at masters or doctoral level. There are very few, if any, masters-level programmes offered by Cambodian universities.

A DelPHE partnership has been taking place between the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) in Cambodia, the University of Brighton and the University of Roehampton (and latterly The Open University) in the UK to develop curriculum and teaching capacity at RUPP's psychology department.

The key aim has been to develop an MSc programme in Clinical Psychology. The new curriculum has helped to inform the masters programmes currently offered at Brighton and Roehampton. It has also enhanced international student collaboration through an online discussion forum for interaction between students at RUPP, Roehampton and Brighton. RUPP has worked with a number of local stakeholders such as NGOs and community groups to ensure that the learning outcomes of the masters course would meet employment needs (for example through student placements). This approach will enable trained graduates to work in the field of counselling and family social work in Cambodia. A recent RUPP graduate talks about their experience on the masters-level programme:

'I learnt advanced skills that added to the skills I had before. I understand the way to work, more technical skills,

stronger clinical skills, how to evaluate. We have instruments to work with our clients, I know much more.'

The newly developed and validated MSc has been followed by the design of a framework to ensure quality assurance. The final programme review will reflect information gathered from all aspects of the programme, including evaluations of students, lecturers and external assessors.

An additional project aim has been to enhance teaching and research capacities. This has been achieved through UK members running research methods workshops for students and staff, by supporting the development of research groups at the university and by working with the psychology department to co-write publications for international journals. Partners formed research focus groups to stimulate understanding between Cambodia and the UK in areas such as violence against women, cultural models of distress and HIV/AIDS counselling.

The partnership has also positively enhanced RUPP's institutional networking and knowledge sharing. This includes recent membership to an international psychology forum aimed at citizen engagement for the Millennium Development Goals, and developing links with Vietnam National University. The new network between Vietnam and Cambodia is regarded as a valuable regional resource to develop locally appropriate quality assurance processes.

RUPP also attended a Nuffic-sponsored workshop in Malaysia on best practice and lessons learned in international higher education partnerships.

This knowledge sharing culminated in a final dissemination conference in Cambodia for over 200 delegates, including representatives from the HE sector, local and international NGOs, media and the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Education.



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2 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Enhancing chemical science in Ethiopia

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Enhancing chemical science in Ethiopia

At present, Ethiopian universities' curricula in both physical sciences and environmental engineering need updating but, as elsewhere in Africa, the science community has suffered from a continuous 'brain drain' over the last couple of decades. Consequently, the scientific establishment in Ethiopia lacks the appropriate skills and knowledge base needed to support any rapid expansion in output.

Building on a highly successful collaboration between the two institutions that began in 2003, the DelPHE-funded partnership between the University of Addis Ababa's Science Faculty and Nottingham University's School of Chemistry was committed to increased engagement in terms of research and educational development. The main objective of the project was to assist Addis staff in the preparation and delivery of new courses and to provide training in new techniques.

As a result, there has been a significant increase in activity regarding the delivery of collaborative curriculum material and the development of scientific knowledge transfer between the two lead universities in this project. Dr Pete Licence at the University of Nottingham has supervised several Ethiopian PhD students and new research directions have been developed in Ethiopia, including new links in electrochemistry, essential oils research, and photochemistry and renewable composites.

DelPHE partners have been engaged in primary research projects, in many cases engaging with external bodies and industrialists to help develop wider collaborative networks. Specific topics covered during exchange visits included graduate study programmes, long-term development strategy, examination reporting protocols and the establishment of longer-term exchange programmes. DelPHE funding enabled interaction between many new areas of activity across the science faculty; project partners held discussions with staff members whose research interests spanned plant ethnobotany and theoretical physics.

As an example, research concerning the removal of metal salts, fluoride and pesticides from groundwater is vitally important to rural areas across Ethiopia. Increasing development of local industry is leading to growing concentrations of contaminants being found in local groundwater supplies. Research into water purification has been conducted by the project at both Addis Ababa and Nottingham institutions, working closely with Yitbarek Alemu Starch Chemicals and Adhesives Industry (YASCAI). Starch derived from renewable resources (such as cassava and potato) and produced by YASCAI has been used in research work. These materials have high absorption affinities towards common pollutants and further research in this area continues.

The project has made great efforts to disseminate its research findings through annual workshops, training and seminars. Four annual green chemistry workshops have been conducted aimed at professionals in higher education and students in preparatory schools. DelPHE partners, Professor Martyn Poliakoff and Dr Pete Licence from Nottingham have presented project research findings at international conferences throughout Europe, North America and Asia. In addition, the project has contributed to the promotion of green and sustainable chemistry within local universities. Jimma and Awassa universities have now incorporated elements of both green and sustainable chemistry into their existing chemistry courses.

The annual green chemistry workshops raised awareness for both high school students and the general public. Each workshop received considerable media coverage from national network TV (ETV) and the Voice of America, as well as BBC local radio and newspapers in both Ethiopia and the UK. In 2009, BBC television journalist Brady Haran visited Addis Ababa with Dr Licence. As a result, a series of five-minute films were produced highlighting green chemistry education, environmental awareness in Ethiopia, science in Ethiopia and local stories of interest, including a focus on Ethiopian gold. These videos have been enthusiastically watched by a wide audience via the internet.

Transforming Ghana's land policy

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Transforming Ghana's land policy

Among the major factors for increasing poverty rates in rural Ghana is insecurity in the tenure of land. This issue particularly affects vulnerable groups such as women and immigrant workers. The problem has contributed to an unsustainable use of the land, land degradation and, consequently, lower yields of vital crops.

Transforming Ghana's land policy was a three-year, DelPHE-funded partnership between the University of the Cape Coast in Ghana and the University of Leeds in the UK. Together with the NGO Communication for Research and Development (COMFORD), the project facilitated the building of research and institutional capacity with regard to land reform policies in support of sustainable development initiatives. It enabled scientists based in Leeds to support Ghanaian higher and local institutional capacity building and to undertake field research aimed at empowering local communities to develop an understanding of the impact of land policy reform.

The overall aim of the project was to promote sustainable development to marginalised and difficult to reach communities by improving their understanding and access to land policy information, while building their capacity in sustainable land management practices. Project activities included arranging knowledge sharing workshops, exchanges of academic staff, presentations at relevant seminars and a sharing of information at community level.

The partnership faced the challenges of a lack of grassroots understanding of land policy, as well as little institutional support for natural resource conservation and community-level natural resource management. The project built on research undertaken in northern

Ghana as well as from wider research experiences. Lessons learned are varied and will help to inform ongoing collaborative partnerships facing climate change and rural agricultural development challenges across rural Africa.

As a direct result of this DelPHE partnership, 685 men and boys and 680 women and girls attended participatory policy learning events to understand better their roles in land policy and management. Seven participatory land planning and management teams were established through the project. As a result of these measures, there has emerged better informed government staff, community leaders and representatives from NGOs working closely together on land management and policy issues.

In addition, the project developed new masters courses and delivered short training programmes that built capacity to enable collaborative participatory research to assess environmental and livelihood impacts of land policy and sustainable development programmes. This helped to generate data and information for more holistic and community-empowering assessments of the sustainability of land management practices for use by both government and other stakeholders within Ghana and across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Following these measures, local communities are now actively involved in rural land use planning and rehabilitation initiatives, such as soil and water conservation, organic farming and agroforestry. Villagers are also now better informed on utilising their woodland areas for both short-term and longer-term benefits.



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4 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Improving groundwater resources management in arsenic-affected areas of eastern India

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Improving groundwater resources management in arsenic-affected areas of eastern India

'I used to take a lot of medicines regularly for indigestion problems but now I don't need those. I am using this arsenic-free water since the last two months. All my family members and myself have benefited from this clean water, particularly regarding stomach problems.'

Utpal Das, a local farmer explains what life used to be like in Kharer Math village in West Bengal, India. Thanks to support from DelPHE, an arsenic removal filter has been designed and installed to provide safe drinking water to community members such as Utpal and children studying at the adjacent Chaksarishadanga primary school.

This DelPHE-funded project is being led by Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur (BESUS) in partnership with the Institute of Environmental Management Studies (IEMS – a local NGO) and Queen's University Belfast, UK. The water filter unit was designed and developed at BESUS and locally constructed. Following installation, they organised a community awareness day, ran workshops with audio-visual aids and distributed leaflets on arsenic prevention. The community are actively involved and are empowered in decision making. The village selected five women and six men to form a 'water committee' who have been trained by BESUS to operate and maintain the filter. It caters for about 100 families who each pay a nominal maintenance fee of 15 Rupees (21 pence) per month to the committee treasurer. Since using the clean water, the community have reported improved digestion and increased appetite. The primary school children also benefit from the safe water, which is used to cook the government-sponsored midday school meal. The teacher at the primary school talked about the benefits of the unit:

'The children like the taste of the water, they have learnt about its benefits. They also take the water back to their homes and their parents collect the safe water from the pump.'

In West Bengal, 79 administrative blocks spread over nine districts are reported to have arsenic contamination in groundwater that exceeds the permissible limit in India. Recent studies show that more than 800,000 people are drinking arsenic-contaminated water and among them at least 175,000 people show adverse effects. In many cases communities are able to identify the contaminated tube-wells and associated physical effects, but in the absence of alternative drinking water sources they are forced to use the polluted water.

BESUS will now study the community and health benefits of the safe water in Kharer Math and hope to transfer the low cost technology for wider use elsewhere in India. At a nearby high school, following water sample testing, BESUS have replaced the two contaminated hand pumps supplying the 2,500-pupil school with an arsenic removal unit. They are currently in discussion with the municipal government to fund the installation.

The partnership is also successfully developing capacity at an institutional level through the transfer of knowledge and technology in sustainable water resources between Queen's University, BESUS and IEMS. Academic staff from BESUS and IEMS are being trained in GIS-based groundwater management. Partners have organised stakeholder dissemination workshops on arsenic remediation and a technical seminar on water pollution at BESUS.

The final year of the project will focus on developing a post-graduate level diploma course in water management and treatment technology at IEMS.



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5 SOCIAL SCIENCES

Livelihood security of women self-help groups in India

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Livelihood security of women self-help groups in India

Women self-help groups (WSHGs) have been gaining momentum in India over the last decade as an important catalyst for poverty alleviation. The main economic activity for most groups is cattle rearing, an important occupation for the majority of rural landless families in southern India.

Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (RAGACOVAS) has been leading a multidisciplinary team of six partners to build capacity in research, teaching and practice to improve the livelihood security of livestock-dependent WSHGs in India.

The partnership has developed a new postgraduate-level module in Gender and Livestock Development for use by Bangalore University and Karnataka State Women's University. The new module has also been taken up by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and integrated into their Postgraduate Veterinary Extension programme.

Partners conducted collaborative research to assess poverty levels among WSHGs in relation to livelihoods, food security and social capital. More than 1,200 women from 105 groups across five states were interviewed. The research and analysis fed into the design and testing of 20 knowledge dissemination tools (ICT and non-ICT) as appropriate levels of intervention to benefit the WSHGs. The tools include a touch-screen information kiosk, flash cards, collapsible study materials and audio CDs. They increase the quality and capacity of decision making by the WSHG members and stakeholders, leading to improved livestock production.

One such successful knowledge tool is the COMBACCS kit – a cellphone-operated MoBILE audio conference and communication system. Designed by Kerala Agricultural University, it won the Young Scientist Award from the Government of Kerala and resulted in a small grant to develop the kit. The benefits are explained by Ms Krishnaveni, WSHG leader in Melsathamangalam, Pondunicherry:

'The nearest veterinary hospital is over two kilometres away so normally it would take a long time to transport a sick animal. COMBACCS can now provide all the information we need on our doorstep. Mastitis is a common problem in cattle but, due to the information we now receive and follow, the condition has decreased.'

Volunteers from WSHGs were trained in livestock rearing techniques and use of the tools to cascade knowledge within their communities. Ms Devamma, WSHG member, Andhra Pradesh explains the benefits:

'They have provided training at college and educated us on various aspects of dairying. Now we are preventing certain diseases by maintaining good hygiene in the premises.'

The partnership has been working directly with government-level authorities and creating policy-level impact. The Government of Kerala and State Department of Animal Husbandry in Andhra Pradesh intend to purchase and use COMBACCS kits. The various tools are also transferrable at national level, as explained by Dr VV Sadamate, Agricultural Adviser to the Planning Commission, Government of India:

'These tools have a direct application in about 170 districts identified as livestock-dependent areas in India. There is a great scope to find their utility in national programmes.'

While the knowledge tools were initially developed for veterinary purposes, their scope can be used more widely in community health care, agriculture and financial management. The tools have been showcased at knowledge kit exhibitions attended by stakeholders from a variety of development disciplines.

For more information, visit the project website:
www.delphesindia.org



6 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Providing safe drinking water and sanitation systems in Nepal

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Providing safe drinking water and sanitation systems in Nepal

Bhalakhalak is a small rural farming community in Kathmandu valley that lies about one hour's drive outside the capital. The community have no sanitation facilities, while access to the only two water springs is physically restricted and scores a 'high risk' on the WHO risk assessment checklist. A community leader describes what daily life is like without access to safe drinking water:

'We spend all our time carrying the clean water up the hill. Access to safe drinking water would improve our lives hugely. The community would be able to spend more time working in the fields and on issues of education and sanitation.'

Nepal Engineering College have been leading a DelPHE-funded collaboration with Imperial College London and Preston University Pakistan to address the issue. Bhalakhalak is just one of the four low income communities in Nepal where partners have been developing knowledge and tools for affordable, sustainable safe drinking water and sanitation solutions.

NEC has conducted leadership training in the target communities to raise awareness of water and sanitation (WATSAN), female empowerment and mobilise community development. The aim is to ensure that long-term maintenance and operation of a WATSAN system is a locally owned responsibility. This has resulted in the formation of women motivator groups and a village development committee in Bhalakhalak. At a community meeting in the village the committee explain how DelPHE has been helping:

'We see it as a very positive thing. Since our involvement in this project people are taking more notice of us. We paid another visit to the local municipal water authority and they told us that they have agreed to put supply pipes into the community.'

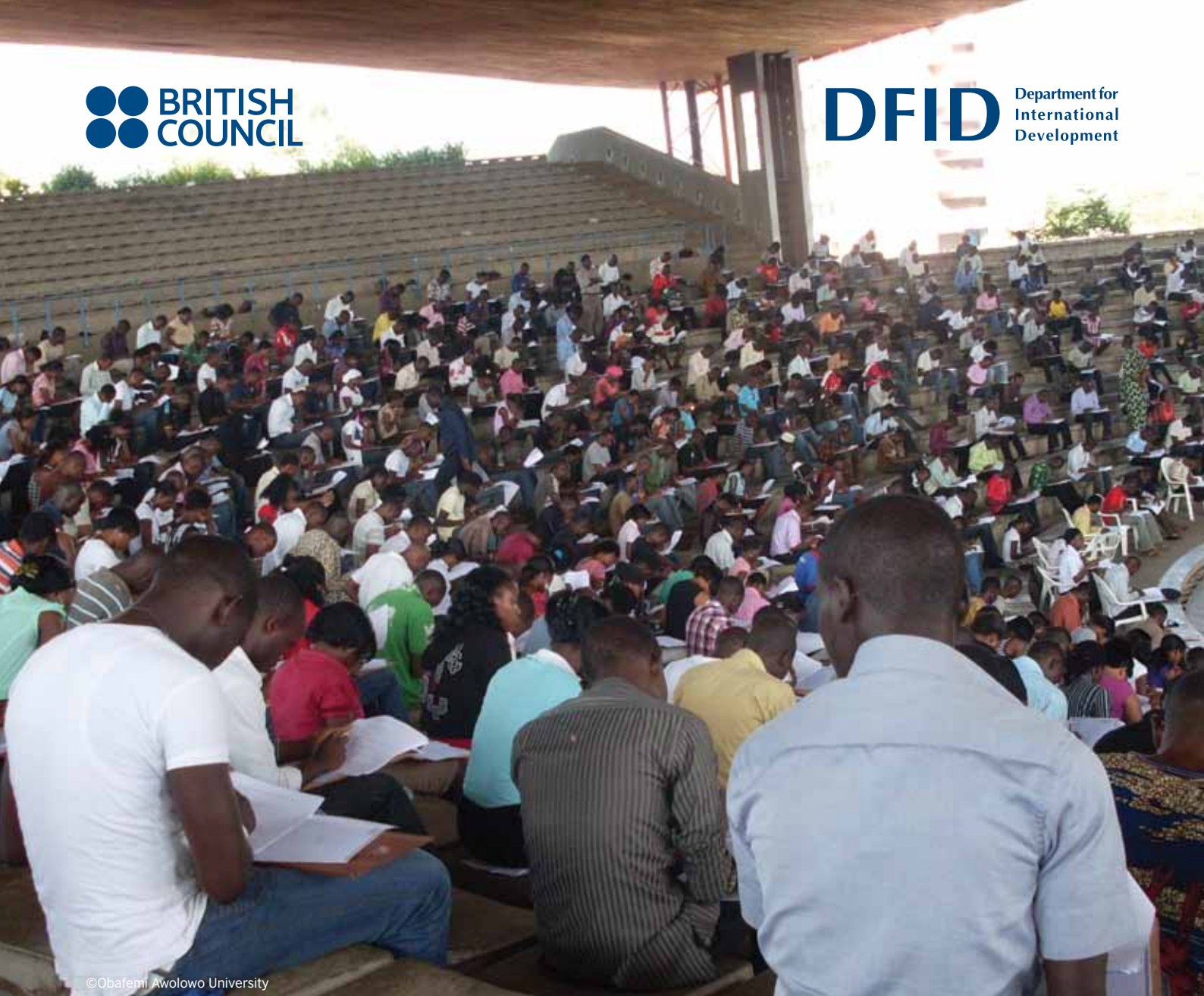
In Nepal 80.4 per cent coverage in water supply and 46 per cent in basic sanitation facilities (DWSS, 2008) shows that the country is not on track to achieve the set MDGs for both water supply and sanitation. High incidences of water-related diseases have been a major cause of death and low productivity of the population in the entire region of South Asia. Simple, low-cost and appropriate technologies have tremendous significance in accelerating the basic water supply and sanitation coverage in poor and marginalised communities.

The partnership has also focused on raising institutional capacity at NEC and Preston University through applied joint research, publications and professional development. Students at NEC and Imperial College London have benefited through increasing their knowledge of WATSAN methods, field-level research and research methodology training. Partners have also focused on developing Safe Drink Water modules within masters and undergraduate level programmes offered at each institution.

NEC has developed strong stakeholder engagement including with local NGOs, international organisations, government and policy makers. Preston University has been able to share its past experience and apply knowledge gained from the project to the local context in Pakistan.

This knowledge and project outcomes have successfully been disseminated through a number of forums including national workshops, conferences and academic publications.

More information can be found on the project website: www.nec.edu.np/delphe



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7 HEALTH

University students empowered to tackle poverty and health in Nigeria

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University students empowered to tackle poverty and health in Nigeria

Poverty and ill health are inextricably linked. Poor people lack food, tend to be uneducated and lack access to basic health care. Poverty creates ill health because it forces people to live in environments that make them sick, without decent shelter, clean water or adequate sanitation. Higher rates of diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, respiratory illnesses and dental diseases have also been documented among the poor.

The diseases of poverty cannot be tackled without concerted efforts and co-operation from all sectors. Therefore, a special elective on poverty and health was introduced to undergraduate students at the Obafemi Awolowo University to develop and strengthen their knowledge of prevention of diseases related to poverty, and especially HIV/AIDS that is currently ravaging the African continent. The special elective places emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals and other policies and programmes that have a profound effect on health and poverty. The elective enhances the capacities of students to prevent infections, and disseminates information aimed at halting or contributing to reversing the spread of diseases as a means of promoting health and reducing poverty. The course is part of a DelpHE-funded project between Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, and the University of Southampton in the UK.

The course, which runs in the first semester for 30 hours, had been mounted for two sessions. It had an enrolment of 501 students in the first year, but the demand was so overwhelming that arrangements had to be made to accommodate 2,000 in the second (current) year. Some of the course materials have now been put online.

The special elective has alerted the students to their roles in poverty alleviation and the prevention of diseases. It has broadened the students' knowledge of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases associated with poverty, and their recognition and prevention in the community.

'This course goes a long way in ensuring the progress of mankind. It is a living course, very practical and realistic. The course has enlightened me so much on the state of poverty and health in the world. The course materials provided, at no cost to us, will be useful to me for a long time after the elective,' said Miss Idayat Obamajure, a third year student on the Bachelor of Agriculture programme.

Mr Adeola Ajibade, a final (fourth) year student of Accounting, described the course as 'revealing, captivating and empowering,' while Mr Samuel Ojo, also a final year student of Economics, finds the course 'thought provoking and an eye-opener'. Most of the course tutors described their experience as mutually beneficial.



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8 AGRICULTURE

Enhancing equity in the artisanal fisheries of post-war Sierra Leone

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Enhancing equity in the artisanal fisheries of post-war Sierra Leone

Complicated relationships between fishing resources, the aquatic environment and development strategies for its coastal zones present post-conflict Sierra Leone with some major challenges. In addition, the coastal fisheries' local populations are some of the poorest people living in Sierra Leone.

A DelPHE-funded partnership between the University of Sierra Leone, the UK's University of Portsmouth and Wageningen University in the Netherlands is focusing on reducing poverty and enhancing equity in the artisanal fisheries of post-war Sierra Leone.

In Sierra Leone the 2004 Local Government Act highlighted a number of activities to be devolved from ministries and agencies to local councils. One of the ministries affected was the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), which was required to transfer the management of artisanal fisheries over to local government. However, local capacity to assume such responsibilities is still very limited. Consequently, the main aim of this partnership is to help build local capacity to ensure the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources in a manner that will enhance the livelihoods of coastal fishing communities.

Following the successful delivery of two intensive week-long governance and fisheries economics courses during the project's first year, extensive fieldwork has been undertaken by this project in the fields of governance and gender equality across Sierra Leone's artisanal fisheries. This fieldwork has enabled practical applications of those tools and techniques developed during the training workshops and the results are presently being collated and fully analysed. The project research team has also discovered environmental threats to the fishing communities through erosion and these are also being investigated further.

A research paper was published in a top-ranking fisheries journal in 2008/09, while another research paper has been

submitted to the *Fisheries Research Journal*. In addition, another two papers on gender in artisanal fisheries are being written by project partners for submission to established fisheries journals. The project's research assistants are also currently drafting more policy-oriented analyses for the *Institute of Marine Biology and Oceanography Bulletin*.

Further training courses in governance and fisheries economics are scheduled for the third and final year of the project. Six regional workshops have already been held under the aegis of this project; three relating to governance aspects following the implementation of the 2004 Local Government Act, and three looking at gender inequality issues in the artisanal fisheries. Members of the local government councils, fishers, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources officials, as well as other relevant stakeholders, were brought together to debate how policies could be oriented towards the reduction of poverty and sustainability of resources (particularly through dealing with the use of illegal netting). In looking at gender inequality the emphasis was upon encouraging participation from local women working in the fishing sector and stimulating debate around how they could contribute towards developing a new national artisanal fisheries framework.

A national symposium on gender and artisanal fisheries held in the summer of 2009 had more than 100 participants and received national media attention from both TV and newspapers. Research assistants from the project also attended training workshops on socio-economic data collection (organised by the EU-funded Institutional Support for Fisheries management project in Sierra Leone) and a training workshop on biological and environmental analysis of marine ecosystems of Sierra Leone (organised by the ADB Artisanal Fisheries Development project implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources).



9 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

Solid waste management for small and medium enterprises in Tanzania and Zambia

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Solid waste management for small and medium enterprises in Tanzania and Zambia

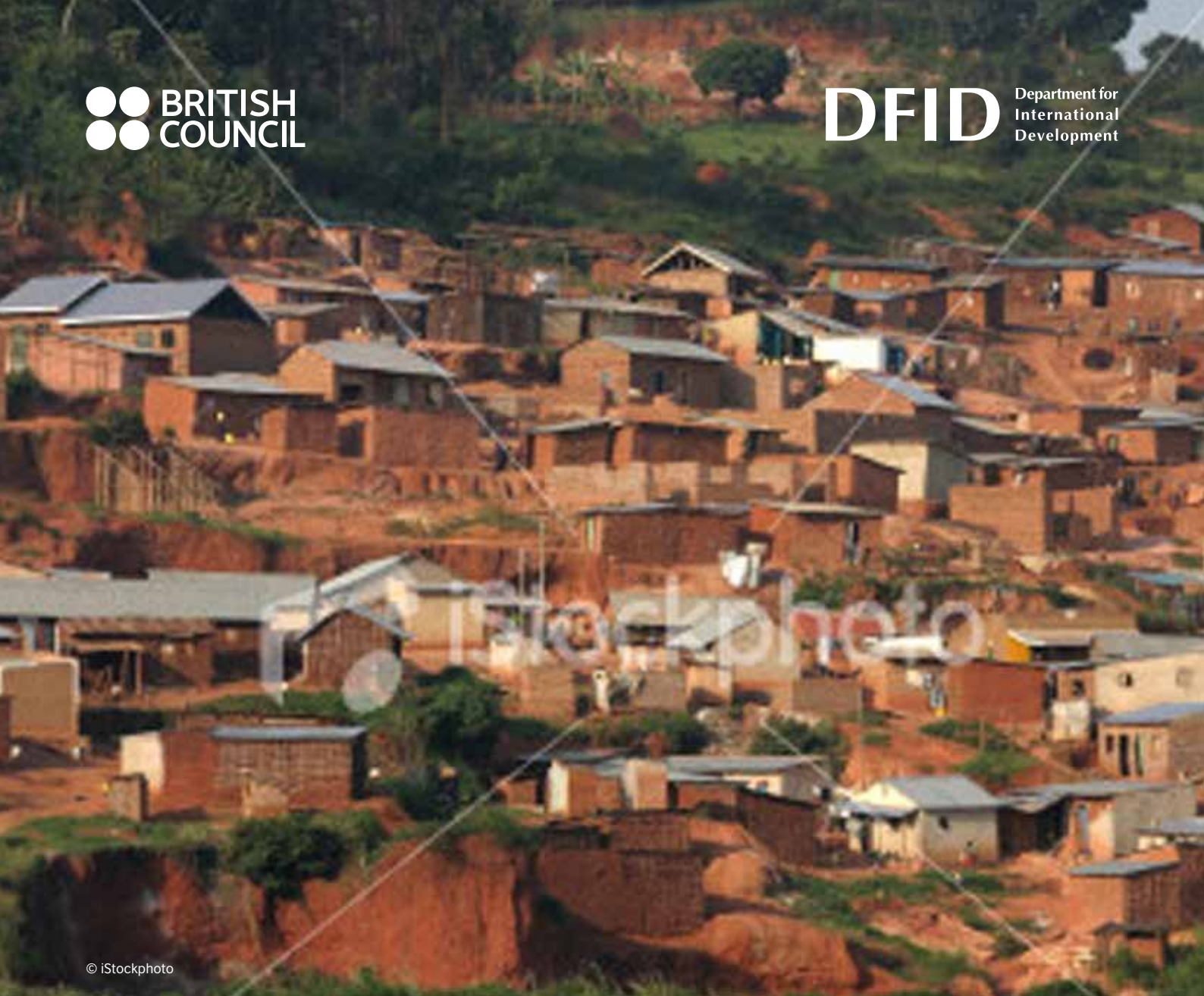
The fact that household rubbish will be collected and disposed of is taken for granted in developed countries – not so in poorer countries. Effective systems for collecting waste produced by communities and industry is usually managed by local authorities in a nation like the UK. In many developing countries, there is relatively weak local government, which does not have the resources to manage the waste produced each day, resulting in piles of garbage left in streets, markets and on waste land. Some countries are experimenting with community-based systems of collecting and managing waste, and this is the aim of the collaboration between Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK, Chainama College of Health Sciences in Zambia and Dar-es-Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) in Tanzania, which is working on a DeIPHE project titled.

Tanzania and Zambia have both developed a partnership approach between the municipal authorities and communities, so that community groups – such as women's groups or a neighbourhood committee – are given a kind of franchise to collect waste in their area. They are given grants to buy wheelbarrows, brooms and other equipment, and they collect waste from households, who in turn pay a small sum for the service. The benefits in terms of cleanliness, reduction of public health problems and aesthetics are obvious. Perhaps not so obvious is the benefit to those people who are organising the waste collection.

We have seen community groups, many of them composed entirely of women, and one of only widows, gain experience, confidence, esteem and, most importantly, an income. One woman in Tanzania spoke of

how she had not only paid school fees but also sent her daughter to university because she had a steady income. All of the schemes that we have been able to evaluate have also proved the worth of women working in areas traditionally seen as men's preserve; women in particular were seen by each scheme as more trustworthy when fees had to be collected from households.

The role of Chainama College and DIT has been to provide courses for the waste collectors in micro-finance, running a small business and entrepreneurship, as well as the technical aspects of waste management, such as composting, recycling and sorting waste. This has meant that they have also learnt skills such as using computers and keeping accounts, which has helped some to move into other employment too. The partnership with Leeds Met has meant that colleagues from those colleges have been able to travel to the UK to gain more experience in the relevant technical areas, in teaching approaches and in participatory research methods. Leeds Met staff have helped in both Zambia and Tanzania with evaluation techniques and with collecting data to show the impact on people's lives of their involvement in collecting waste. The management of solid waste in this way has not only made the streets cleaner – in Dar, for example, the amount of waste disposed of has gone up from four per cent to 44 per cent – it has also led to a change in people's attitudes to waste disposal and created real opportunities for community members, particularly women, to make a living.



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10 HEALTH

Research capacity development for poverty reduction and sustainable development in Uganda

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Research capacity development for poverty reduction and sustainable development in Uganda

In order to tackle the problems that face its communities in contributing towards a number of development goals, there was a need within Uganda to specifically focus on interdisciplinary research capacity building. Capacity needed to be further developed in a wide range of specialist skills including epidemiology, population dynamics, geographical information systems, biodiversity, health policy in complex emergencies, environmental management, climate change, malariology, maternal and child health, anthropology, emerging infectious diseases, natural resource management and public health engineering.

A DfPHE-funded partnership was established between three Ugandan higher education institutions (Makerere University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Gulu University), together with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the University of Oxford. Particular attention was given to disease control measures that had not been implemented and diseases that had previously been neglected.

The project's focus was on helping individuals affected by massive livelihood changes and those for whom traditional services were not appropriate, such as the local population living with the ongoing conflict in northern Uganda. The project aimed to equip individuals so that once this conflict ends there would be a cadre of well-trained Ugandans able to lead in the rebuilding of the region and deal effectively with the challenges that this would create.

As a result of its activities, the project has succeeded in developing an international Uganda–UK network of scientific relationships, which will be the basis for continuing research development. In addition, the project has catalysed research capacity strengthening to address MDGs and enabled teachers from collaborating universities to work together to improve the health of vulnerable populations. These teachers have been empowered with new knowledge, skills and confidence and have been motivated to teach and conduct research.

New masters courses developed at both Mbarara and Gulu will equip those who will be working to combat health hazards, with the Gulu course focusing on malaria and neglected tropical diseases, and Mbarara's MPH looking at the prevention of diseases in a broader context. The MSc courses being developed at Gulu, both in medical and veterinary parasitology and entomology and in conservation/environment, focus on livestock health and sustainable land use to serve the vulnerable population living in northern Uganda.

Finally, as a direct result of this project, there is now a much stronger orientation towards postgraduate teaching and training and research work than existed before. Although all three universities were at different stages of development, each has now progressed substantially, both in developing new courses and objective measures but also in terms of institutional self-confidence. As a result, all the staff involved with this project are now able to operate more readily at an international level.



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11 HEALTH

Developing capacity of nurses, doctors and paramedics in Zambia

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Developing capacity of nurses, doctors and paramedics in Zambia

Combating HIV and AIDS is an important health issue affecting countries across the world. In Zambia, HIV and AIDS present a huge developmental challenge, as the numbers of people infected and affected remain high. For instance, Zambia has significant maternal-to-child HIV transmission rates, with over 20,000 babies becoming infected every year. Therefore the demand for skilled health workers to provide expertise in the management of HIV/AIDS remains strong.

The health education partnership was a DelPHE-funded link between the University Teaching Hospital and Medical School in Lusaka (UTH) and the Brighton and Sussex Medical School in the UK. Brighton was identified as the ideal partner as the city is home to a significant number of people living with HIV/AIDS and its medical school regularly participates in research studies aimed at improving patient care, as well as organising postgraduate educational courses.

The project's long-term strategic goal was to promote the professional development and training of teachers and staff in the key areas of nursing, midwifery, medicine and paediatrics, and to ensure that the partnership would have direct relevance in supporting progress towards delivering the Zambian government's national strategies around health.

As a direct result of this project there have been a series of key changes to the way services are delivered at UTH. Student nurses are now placed in the HIV clinic for one week of their training. In addition, there has been an improvement in the availability of HIV post-exposure prophylaxis with defined policies and pathways in place. HIV rapid testing kits are now placed within each department and so far 20 nurses have been trained in HIV testing and are now delivering cascade training. There is a new workplace policy for HIV-positive

healthcare workers, developed through one of the HIV nurse education courses and which has become national policy formalised through the Ministry of Health.

Although the initial workshop was delivered by project partners from Brighton, local facilitators are now able to facilitate the workshops themselves with support from the management team at UTH. In addition to training nurses working at UTH, staff from three private hospitals based in Lusaka have also attended the workshops.

As a result of the partnership, nursing grand rounds have been established and are available for all nursing staff throughout the hospital on a monthly basis. Each department take its turn to present and there have been noticeable changes in reflective nursing practice since the grand rounds were initiated.

Following a visit to Brighton to attend a mentorship course, Zambian partners have set up a mentorship programme at UTH for their nursing colleagues. Further development of this mentorship scheme for nurses working with HIV patients is underway in conjunction with the Centre for Infectious Diseases Research Zambia (CIDRZ).

In addition, five stigma reduction workshops have been delivered by the International Aids Alliance, in which senior and enrolled nurses have been trained. During one of these workshops a participant remarked:

'I have enjoyed this workshop on stigma ... it has enlightened us on the parameters or measures that would help us reduce this practice to lower levels. We have pointed out things that happen in the clinical areas that we thought were normal when they were totally wrong approaches. In all, this will help harmonise interaction between health providers and the patients and even among patients themselves.'



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12 HEALTH

Providing a unique opportunity for skills
development in the mental health sector
in Zambia

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De|P|H|E

Providing a unique opportunity for skills development in the mental health sector in Zambia

Chainama Hills College Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia is a government-run college hospital built in 1936. It is the only provider of mental health training and education in the country. Despite this fact, it only receives 0.9 per cent of the total health budget. There is a critical shortage of human resource to provide mental health training and only 260 mental health workers for the whole country.

The overall purpose of the DeIPHE project between Chainama Hills College Hospital in Zambia and Leeds University in the UK is to support the further development of education and training for the mental health workforce, as well as the provision and support for the transition from hospital-based to community-based mental health services.

During the two years that this project has been running there has been several capacity-building activities undertaken, such as exchange visits and skills development workshops, to meet the overall objectives.

According to Rose Ngandu, who is a senior lecturer as well as the project co-ordinator, the visits were real learning experiences in terms of how mental health teaching is conducted in the UK.

During a discussion with a group of lecturers as to how they got involved in the project and what their overall views were, one of them – Elizabeth Mambwe – had this to say:

'Unlike other projects that would be department specific, we have noticed that the DeIPHE project is all embracing and I can say that about 90 per cent of the lecturers here have benefited from this intervention.'

Gertrude Nakeempa, also a lecturer, added:

'I am committed to this project because what we are taught is so practical. It is easy to see the gaps and areas of improvement in our teaching methodologies. It is something you can implement straight away, hence it is sustainable.'

This project has gone beyond targeting lecturers at the college and has identified another key group that can benefit from these trainings. Home-based care givers provide a great service to their communities by providing care to HIV/AIDS patients; however, according to the project co-ordinator, Rose Ngandu, although this group is equipped with knowledge on HIV/AIDS there has been a huge neglect in care of mental illnesses.

'They are a key resource to our community, though few are widespread; we should equip them with the necessary skills to deal with mental illnesses. And the beauty about this group of people is that this training can be cascaded to other areas, as structures are already in place in various areas.'

'It is amazing how a grant of £60,000 can be used to benefit a whole institution and go beyond academic and reach out to the community. As said by one of the beneficiaries, 'once we leave our formal education there is very little opportunity to build upon the skills we have acquired.' Luckily this project has provided that opportunity.'

The DelPHE programme is based on a partnership between the British Council, DfID and the participating institutions. The British Council is responsible for the management and delivery of DelPHE. The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is responsible for an element of programme delivery in supporting South–South (developing–developing) partnerships.

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