



research and knowledge at the heart of development



# What makes for a good research partnership? A view from Tanzania

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# Meaningful partnership: What does it mean

- Partners are collaboratively and fully involved in **designing** and **implementing projects, processing** results and feedback (through monitoring and evaluation)

## What are the issues

### 1. Setting the research agenda

- **Problem:** Predetermined research agenda that do not answer issues in the context of local problems
- **Why does it not work:** lack of relevance in local context, difficult to advice policy and practice, extractive research rather than inclusive and collaborative

## Setting the research agenda...

➤ **Solution:** Working together to define the research problem, implementation, and processing of results (examples of UDOM – collaborating partners – **INASP - RW**, Global Partnership for Education – **Improving primary education in Tanzania**, **OSU – water and renewable energy**)

## What are the issues...

### 2. Building sustainable capacity

➤ **Problem:** Predetermined budgets, **minimal capacity development**, no plans for supporting the local partners to continue work into the future

➤ **Solution:** Local and North partners to work together in establishing models that are **cost effective and sustainable**

## What are the issues...

### 3. Effective engagement with policy makers

- **Problem:** Policy makers are not fully engaged in the process (predetermined agenda, fixed budgets, fixed time frame etc)
- **Solution:** To engage policy makers and local partners in identifying the problem, and implementation and how the expected outcomes will help solve the problem (**like what we did with the Ohio State University (OSU) – involved ministries, institutions and the community to identify need**).

## ...Engagement with policy makers and local partners

- **How did this work:** Requires effective coordination, it was inclusive/participatory – **respective stakeholders**
- **Challenges:** An **effective and committed coordinator** required (DRP,CIC in place)

## ...Engagement with policy makers and local partners

- **What was successful** – (i) With OSU Resaerch results informed policy in the Planning and construction of water wells **based on project results** (Planning and implementation level, training of workforce)



## ...Engagement with policy makers and local partners

➤ **What was successful** – (ii) With INASP – identified need in both RW & Gender mainstreaming – embedding activities – **capacity building, monitoring & evaluation, value for money**

## ...Engagement with policy makers and local partners

- Engagement with policy makers  
**continued beyond project time frame**  
**(local partners in country have a crucial  
role in monitoring and evaluation, re-plan  
and re-design)**
- Policy makers/implementers able to  
**allocate budget locally for sustainability.**

## ...Engagement with policy makers and local partners

➤ **What was successful** – (iii) Local and North partners to work together in establishing models that are **cost effective and sustainable** (like what we did in developing the SPHEIR project –involved several institutions in EA, policy makers and HE regulatory authorities).



## Conclusion

### The local partner

- Takes financial responsibility  
(**economy/value for money, effective, efficient, equity**)

This **fosters accountability** in donor funded projects

# Conclusion

## The North partner

- Understands the problem in local context ,
- Understands the local stakeholders challenges and strengths
- Understands how policy systems work in the country,

**This is important for future funding plans**



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**Thank you for listening**