



UNIVERSITIES AS AGENTS OF DEVELOPMENT:

WHAT DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS EXPECT

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**Empowering Communities.
Saving Lives.**

Transforming Health Systems in Nigeria


Introduction

- ❑ Universities are:
 - Neutral conveners,
 - Assemblers of talent, and
 - Idea factories where *the passion, creativity and idealism* of great minds, young and old alike, can be applied to problem-solving and advancing of societal and economic well-being.

 - ❑ Globally, Universities are known to play active roles in National and Regional development initiatives

 - ❑ Known as catalysts for change by contributing to innovations, discoveries and inventions.
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The role of the university transcends higher learning...

- ❑ The university's obligatory functions are both intellectual and social
 - ❑ Intellectual functions:
 - “teaching and research”**
 - ❑ Social functions:
 - “Regional and national development”**
 - ❑ The university has an obligation to the society not just to produce graduates but to:
 - Actively contribute to regional or national development
 - Hold both government and donors accountable for their stewardship
 - Provide evidence for policy dialogue and development
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Global Best Practices....

- ❑ Some academic institutions are known for ‘churning out’ great leaders
 - Oxford (9 Monarchs and Presidents), University of Manchester (8 PMs and Presidents, research by Higher Education Policy Institute (2015))

- ❑ Other academic institutions are reputable for pioneering innovations...
 - Silicon Valley’s Stanford University (1st), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2nd), Harvard University (3rd) – List of 100 Most Innovative Universities (2015) – **Africa not on the list!**
 - Graduates of Stanford established Hewlett-Packard, Yahoo, & Google – combined generate \$2.7 trillion annual in global revenue (Reuters, 2015)

Role of Donors in Development

- Fund innovations
- Fund solutions
- Fund the Future.....NOW
- Fund Sustainable initiatives
- Fund Results
- Create “Healthy” competition within the academia and the development sector
- Challenge the status quo in developing RFAs.

What Development Partners Expect from Universities

- ❑ Clear Vision and Mission
- ❑ Strategic Plan and focus (5-10 Years)
- ❑ Demonstrated understanding of Local and international realities (Social determinants of Health)
- ❑ Existence of curricula to address emerging developmental challenges
- ❑ Quality/cadre of faculty members
- ❑ An understanding of donor priority areas
- ❑ Responsiveness to environmental realities (short in-service training opportunities that addresses local and regional realities)
- ❑ **Networks and partnerships** with other institutions of learning. Eg. *Harvard T. Chan School of Public Health's India Health Partnership (IHP) Programme*

NGO-Academic Interface



Source: *Academic-NGO Collaboration in International Development Research: a reflection on the issues*; Chika Charles Aniekwe, Rachel Hayman and Anna Mdee, with Job Akuni, Priya Lall and Daniel Stevens
September 2012

Are Universities a Worthy Investment For Donors?

The Big answer is YES!

- ❑ Increased global attention to and funding of African universities were drivers of the actualization of MDGs , as reflected in such initiatives as the Blair Commission's blueprint for UK support to Africa, the joint MacArthur, Ford and Rockefeller Foundations scheme for higher education in Africa, and the increased opportunities for competitive grants by USAID, EU, DfID, British Council
- ❑ Universities must now adapt and innovate in order to position themselves to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs


Overview of Nigerian Universities

- ❑ Rating of Nigerian universities among development partners and donors is low
- ❑ Nigerian Universities work in Silos (comfort zones)
- ❑ Individual rather than Institutional relationships
- ❑ Donors/Development Partners prefer partnership with foreign Universities (Harvard, Hopkins, University of Maryland, Liverpool, Aberdeen etc.)
- ❑ Disconnect between national and regional developmental priorities and Academic Research (CDC, Ebola, Lassa, MDGs, SDGs)
- ❑ Inability to hold both Government and Donors accountable for their Stewardship (Not involved in evaluation; mistakes repeated over and over)
- ❑ Opportunities provided by various donor programs over the years have not been capitalized upon to ensure sustainability of best practices {Some Universities have been receiving grants for more than 40 years but have not yet graduated to regional center of excellence}

Positioning UMS: Some Questions


As a budding Medical University with lots of potential and promise:

- what must we do to strategically position the institution as an active participant in and a center of excellence for Public Health Development ?
 - What will differentiate the graduates from this institution from other Medical Schools?
 - What will make Institutions like Harvard, Liverpool, London School, etc. want to establish relationship with UMS? (Student Exchange, Internship, Dual degree)
 - What will attract Private donors and foundations to want to invest in the institution?

 - What will make the University Stand out among other institutions not only in Nigeria, Sub-Sahara Africa but also globally?
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Expectations?


Be Proactive... Futuristic....

- ❑ What current challenges are faced in Nigeria?
 - Leadership, Corruption, Epidemics, Unemployment, Traditionalism, et al...
 - ❑ How can UMS address these challenges?
 - Should we continue to lurk and wait for the likes of Lassa fever, Ebola, bird flu?
 - Why have some countries successfully and sustainably curbed specific epidemics and diseases
 - ❑ What best practices exist elsewhere?
 - ❑ What synergies should exist between UMS and others regionally or internationally?
 - ❑ How can these synergies be improved to harness collective success?
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What UMS must we focus on?


- ❑ **Leadership**
- ❑ **Vision** and Strategic Focus:
 - Local
 - National
 - Regional/Global
- ❑ **Innovation and Research** (focusing on SOCIAL research and local success stories, evidence for policy formation)
- ❑ Help Government and Donors to **learn** through well documented program **evaluations**.
- ❑ Serve as Institutional homes for learning and sustainability. (Develop Short Courses e.g.. Abiye Initiative)
- ❑ Networking and Partnerships (internal and External)
- ❑ Business management Training/Internship
 - *PATHS2 involved with training private medical practitioners in business development*

Positioning UMS contd.


- Governance and Quality
 - Public Private Partnerships
 - Project Management
 - Accountability (internal and external)
 - Quarterly or annual Development Forum to disseminate best practices
 - Effective management system
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Networks and Partnerships


Only through the proliferation of networks can universities hope to contribute to sustainable development.

- Collaborations with development projects/NGOs for public health research and improved understanding of what works
 - Increased Funding
 - Development of innovative programmes for resolving public health related issues
 - *“Abiye” initiative in Ondo state*
 - *Ownership initiatives*
 - *Drug Revolving Fund/Sustainable Drug Supply Systems*
 - *Emergency Transport Scheme*
 - Joint initiatives for regional or national development projects
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What Universities Should Expect from Donors

- ❑ Address the gaps that exist between Donors and academia beyond individual consultancy (refer to NGO-Academia interface diagram)
 - ❑ Form meaningful partnership with Academia
 - ❑ Help Academia to refocus by helping to source for experts
 - ❑ Encourage Fellowships for Students and Academic staff to bridge gap between knowledge and practice (Ford Fellowship, MacArthur, Gates)
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Looking forward....

- What would the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo state be known for?
 - What niche would you create in Nigeria, Africa or globally?
 - 10 years from now where do you see UMS?
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Take Away

- ❑ To be active participants and relevant in development, (*not just passive recipients of grants*), Universities must move beyond their four walls to interface/collaborate/partner with development projects in order to be effective in contributing to development and become visible to donors
- ❑ Must be innovative in approach, dynamic in understanding and developing solutions to priority local and regional realities

Thank You

