



Forming equitable international partnerships

# The TESCEA Experience in East Africa

By Dr. Albert Luswata

Uganda Martyrs University

INASP



# Introduction

## **An equitable international partnership**

A strategic partnership of universities, social entrepreneurs and learning specialists spanning Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and the UK was formed with the aim to transform higher education for sustainable development in East Africa. This poster presents the TESCEA (Transforming Employability for Social Change in East Africa) experience in fostering equitable partnerships for enhanced outcomes and sustainable development.

### **Combination of diverse talents and experiences**

- 4 diverse universities located in Uganda and Tanzania where the change took place
- 3 organizations based in Kenya that provided training of faculty, expertise on systemic change and linkage with the industry
- The Lead partner based in the UK (INASP) that provided overall leadership and a brokering role with the funders

# Our Approach



<b>Partnership Principles</b>	<b>Implementation Strategies</b>
Shared Vision and Goals	Beginning from aligned visions and common purpose
Mutual Respect and Trust	Valuing each other's knowledge and expertise; Collaborative working practices
Equitable Governance	Consensus based decision-making; Transparency; Clear reporting; Boldness
Clear Communication	Regular meetings and feedback, Openness
Commitment to learning	Revision and Adjustment of approach
Understanding the local context	Rooting our model in East African practice



# Results

## Key Outcomes and Impact

- An equitable partnership that stayed even long after the project
- Improved collaboration between universities, industries, and communities
- Mutual benefits between North and South partners: funding, research, community engagement, capacity building
- Strengthened local institutions capacity
- Increased networks among stakeholders
- Lasting relationship among partners
- Empowerment of Faculty in innovative teaching and learning
- Improved graduate employability and innovation

# Lessons Learned

## Key Takeaways and Implications

- The partnership created something that none of the partners could achieve alone
- Mutual respect and trust are the foundation for equitable partnerships and for long term commitment and friendship
- Equitable governance fosters trust and drives impact
- Context matters: understanding local context matters
- Equitable partnerships require shared power and resources
- Clear communication is key to success
- Learning and creating space for adapting and adjusting is key
- Involvement of the industry, community and government provides practical insights and policy support





# Recommendations

## and Conclusion

- Foster strategic stakeholder engagement and involvement at all stages
- Involve all partners in co-creating equitable principles from the beginning
- Foster a culture of collaboration and mutual respect
- Avoid one-sided decisions for ownership and co-ownership by all partners
- Prioritize capacity building for local stakeholders
- Partnerships need long term focus for a sustainable impact
- Embed equitable partnership principles in institutional policies for sustainability

Equitable partnerships are crucial for transforming higher education in Africa. The TESCEA experience demonstrates that collaborative approaches can lead to improved learning outcomes and sustainable development.

# Contact Information

**Albert Luswata**

## Phone

+256 701 46 2 064

## Email

aluswata@umu.ac.ug

## Website

[www.umu.ac.ug](http://www.umu.ac.ug)