

# Environmental

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## Developing a ‘community’ of researchers (local, national and regional)

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### Initiative to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Africa

The [Initiative to Strengthen Health Research Capacity Building in Africa](#) (ISHReCA) is an African-led initiative aimed at building a strong foundation for health research in Africa.

ISHReCA aims to serve as a forum for African scientists to collate ideas to capacity building, and to speak to funders collectively. ISHReCA lays emphasis on a comprehensive approach to capacity building that leads to sustained increase recruitment, training and retention of African scientists.

For more information, visit the [ISHReCA website](#).

### Royal Society Pfizer African Academies Programme

The [Royal Society Pfizer African Academies Programme](#) is a three year programme of mentoring, training and institutional support for national academies of science in Ghana, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

The aim of the programme is to extend the broader skills base within scientific academies whilst also building vital policy links and understanding between institutions, scientists and policy makers. The academies are able to draw on ‘support packages’ provided by the Royal Society and NASAC, which will help to elevate their profiles, develop strategic objectives, enable the academies to be more responsive and proactive, and link with relevant national and international stakeholders.

For more information, visit the [African Academies Programme website](#).

## Wellcome Trust African Institutions Initiative

The [Wellcome Trust's African Institutions Initiative](#) aims to develop institutional capacity to support and conduct health-related research vital to enhancing people's health, lives and livelihoods.

More than 50 institutions from 18 African countries are partnered in seven international and pan-African consortia. Each is led by an African institution and includes research and higher education partners as well as research institutes from Europe, the US and Australia.

For more information, visit the [African Institutions Initiative website](#).

## Developing national/regional grant giving bodies

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### African Union Research Grant Programme

The African Union Commission (AUC) - Human Resources Science and Technology (HRST) Department manages public calls for research proposals at the African continent level with the main aim to strengthen the research capacity of the African infrastructures by consolidating, sharing and networking their accumulated asset of scientific knowledge.

The AUC-HRST will be responsible for managing the research selection process (identification, evaluation, contracting and monitoring) during the three year project allowing it the experience and necessary knowledge to enable the development of a future African research framework programme.

The programme supports research focusing on the thematic priorities articulated in Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and its Lighthouse Projects.

For more information, visit the [website](#).

### Health Research Capacity Strengthening

The [Health Research Capacity Strengthening](#) (HRCS) initiative aims to strengthen the capacity for generating new health research knowledge within Kenya and Malawi, and to improve its use in evidence-based decision making, policy formulation and implementation.

The [Wellcome Trust](#) and the [UK Department for International Development](#) (DFID) committed £10 million each towards developing national bodies to distribute research funding.

In Kenya the programme is being implemented by a new NGO, the Consortium for National Health Research (CNHR) and in Malawi, activities will be undertaken by the existing National Research Council of Malawi (NRCM).

For further information, visit the [Wellcome Trust website](#).

## **Encourage more attention to QA/standard raising process**

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## Encouraging an open debate about research and developing the scientific literacy of citizens

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### Wellcome Trust International Engagement Awards

[Wellcome Trust International Engagement Awards](#) support projects with grants of up to £30 000 that:

- to strengthen the capacity of people in low- and middle-income countries to facilitate public engagement with health research
- to stimulate dialogue about health research and its impact on the public in a range of community and public contexts in low- and middle-income countries
- to investigate and test new methods of engagement, participation, communication or education around health research
- to promote collaboration on engagement projects between researchers and community or public organisations
- to support Wellcome Trust funded researchers in low- and middle-income countries in engaging with the public and policy makers.

For more information, visit the [International Engagement Awards website](#).

## Encouraging evidence informed policy making/stimulating demand from policy makers

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### African Economic Research Consortium

The [African Economic Research Consortium](#) (AERC) provides an evidence base for policy making in Africa.

It's objective is to "strengthen local capacity for conducting independent, rigorous inquiry into problems pertinent to the management of economies in sub-Saharan Africa."

It supports programmes in research, training and communications.

Visit the [AERC website](#).

### International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications

[International Networks for the availability of Scientific Publications](#) (INASP) works with partners to support global research communication through innovation, networking and capacity strengthening, focusing on the needs of developing and emerging countries.

INASP work with countries to address their national priorities for:

- access to national and international scholarly information and knowledge
- use, creation, management and uptake of scholarly information and knowledge via appropriate ICTs
- national, regional and international cooperation, networking and knowledge exchange

INASP also advise and advocate for improved policy and practice in achieving sustainable and equitable development through effective communication, knowledge and networks.

For more information on INASP's programmes visit their [website](#)

## Partnership for African Social and Governance Research

The [Partnership for African Social and Governance Research](#) (PASGR) initiative aims to address the underlying causes of declining capacity in political and social science research output in sub-Saharan Africa.

The intent of the PASGR initiative is to support research on aspects of governance and their influence on the design and implementation of social policy. Furthermore, the PASGR initiative will strengthen the provision of higher education so that graduates as well as faculty can contribute effectively to African research and public policy.

For more information, visit the [PASGR website](#).



## Encouraging the development of innovation systems

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### West African Regional Programme for Health

The [West African Regional Programme](#) (PRSAO) is an initiative of the European Commission and ECOWAS. The aim of the Programme is to strengthen regional integration in West Africa through the coordination and the harmonization of health policies, facilitating the free movement of populations, goods, services and technologies and contributing to the improvement of the performance of health systems in areas of common interest.

#### Specific objectives are:

- The coordination, the harmonization and the definition of health common policies having and added value at sub-regional level, particularly in terms of common positions on the international scene and drug policing.
- Building national and sub-regional capacities for surveillance and the fight against the major cross border epidemics;
- Strengthening /Developing regional functions for health research and training structures in order to create the crucial base for West African Skills;
- Support efforts made by states to reform and strengthen national health systems on the basis of consultation and exchange of good practices in areas of common interest.
- Strengthening cooperation and exchange of information and experience on the aspects of health policy which have an added value at the sub-regional level.

For more information, visit the [PRSAO website](#).

## Establish networks of policy makers and researchers

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## Improving the availability of research information

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### Euraxess

[Euraxess](#) is a website that aims to provide information and advice for international researchers wishing to come to the UK or for those looking for jobs in research in Europe.

EURAXESS-UK is part of the EURAXESS Service Centre network, a pan-European initiative involving 35 countries across Europe. EURAXESS helps European and non-European researchers as they move about in Europe and supports scientific organisations in their search for outstanding research talent.

For more information, visit the [EURAXESS website](#).

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