Building Capacity for Quality Research: Challenges and Opportunities for “young” Think Tanks

By

Dr. Ebere Uneze
What is Capacity Building?

- Defined as enhancing the abilities of individuals, organizations and systems to undertake and disseminate high quality research efficiently and effectively – DFID
Why Build Capacity?

- Lack of capacity hinders high quality research
- Lack of capacity limits the ability of think tanks to influence and inform policy

... this is even more so for “young” think tanks
Key Steps of Capacity Building for Quality Research

- Needs Assessment
  - Identify capacity gaps/research priorities

- Mapping of Research & Policy Environment

- Stakeholder Analysis

- Intervention:
  - Management consultation
  - Training/technical assistance
  - Financial support/Research funding

- Monitoring & Evaluation
Challenges of Capacity Building for Quality Research

- Lack of required basic skills
  - Academic writing skills
  - Basic research skills

- Infrastructural gaps
  - Lack of cutting-edge research facilities
  - Lack of affordable and limited information technology infrastructure

- Funding constraints
  - Limited funding opportunities (including domestic sources)
  - Donor fatigue
  - Rising global economic & financial stress
Challenges of Capacity Building for Quality Research Contd.

- Unstable & poor management
- Limited opportunities for cross-learning
  - Opportunities to attend international conferences & workshops
- Problem of Retention/staff turnover
  - Weak incentive system
Opportunities of Capacity Building for Quality Research

- Attract resources to support partnerships & collaborations in research and knowledge-sharing with donors and other research institutions.

- Promote targeted research areas that support change and economic progress.

- Continuous improvement of procedures and practices that promote high quality research.
Opportunities of Capacity Building for Quality Research Contd.

- Engage in “high-level” policy influencing activities
- Increase visibility
- Demonstrate impact and results
Thank You!