

Title: The role of Australia-Africa Scholarship Awards in building capacity in public health human resource in Uganda and Mozambique

ABSTRACT:

The objectives of the Australian scholarships varied from poverty alleviation, capacity development, individual empowerment and Australia's national interest. These key motivators are some of the reasons for Australia to engage in aid-funded higher education and for participating recipients to want to transform themselves. In the context of Africa, the overarching aim of scholarships provided by the Australian Government is toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As such the Australian Government offers two types of long term awards to African students, Masters-level Awards in Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Natural Resource Management including Mining Governance, Public Policy, Water and Sanitation and PhDs in Agricultural. This paper focuses on public health training as the importance of health is highlighted by the three of the eight Millennium Development Goals being health related. This paper contributes to the discussion of the role that the Australia Africa scholarship awards play in meeting the MDGs 4, 5 and 6: reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases in Mozambique and Uganda. It examines the future of public health training in Uganda and Mozambique and whether there is still a need for Australia to provide scholarships for public health training to these countries. The qualitative and quantitative data presented is from a larger study on Australia Africa scholarship awards and it reveals that public health training needs to be streamlined in both countries in order to decrease qualification inflation in some speciality areas and fill in gaps in others. Australia capacity building in the public health human resource in Uganda and Mozambique needs to occur at multiple levels in the health sector for the realization of real change.

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