



Gender & Inclusivity

A PROJECT OF THE SCIENCE GRANTING COUNCILS INITIATIVE



UGANDA NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, UGANDA

Deborah Mirembe Kasule, Geoffery Sempiri, Steven Sebbale, Agwang Florence, Beth Mutumba, Immaculate Nakamya, Linda Amanyana.

The Gender & Inclusivity Project, a component of the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI), is led by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa in partnership with Gender at Work (G@W), Jive Media Africa and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA). G@W's unique methodology, Gender Action Learning (GAL), together with the Targeted Technical Assistance (TTA) process designed by the HSRC, supports a unique participatory process that responds to councils' needs, builds partnerships and encourages ownership of the change process.

Tackling the 'Three Gs' in Research Granting – Generational bias, Gender and Geography

By starting to look at its projects through a Gender and Inclusivity lens, the Ugandan National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) has devised a number of strategies aimed at greater inclusivity.



Geoffery Sempiri



Deborah Mirembe Kasule



Steven Sebbale



Agwang Florence



Beth Mutumba



Immaculate Nakamya



Linda Amanyana



There were three key issues affecting the pattern of research grant allocations:

- Geographical location – researchers based outside of the capital city of Kampala were at a disadvantage when it came to access to information on opportunities for research funding as well as the requisite capacity to apply for the grants;
- Gender – few women researchers applied for grants or responded to proposal calls;
- Generational bias – senior/experienced researchers were given preference in grant allocations over emerging or younger and less experienced researchers.

Applying a gendered lens to the work of the council, the Gender and Inclusivity Project change team set out to expedite certain initiatives aimed at resolving these issues, including:

- The establishment of the national Gender Equity in Research Alliance (GERA) which has set up regional gender committees across four administrative regions of Uganda to coordinate gender equity in research and provide more opportunity for geographical inclusion: <https://www.gera.ug/>;

- The development of the UNCST Grants Management Manual to highlight the importance of mainstreaming gender inclusiveness as a key requirement for funding;
- The formation of a gender committee and drafting of a gender policy to tackle gender issues in the council's regular work and to ensure that programme implementation is gender-inclusive;
- Empowering young researchers through mentorship programmes; ensuring that when vulnerable communities participate in research, their rights are protected; and ensuring that research conducted in Uganda is, among others, beneficial to women, youth and marginalised communities.

Challenges

Despite the above successes, the UNCST recognises the need for ongoing support to improve its capacity to conduct gendered analysis and to collect and develop its use of such data in organisational evidence-based programming and planning.

The council is also exploring the idea of issuing calls that specifically focus on gender issues.

