

## ANNUAL REPORT FORM

**RESEARCH CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AWARDS**
**GRANT DETAILS**

<b>Wellcome Trust Grant Number</b>	087544
<b>Name of Grant Holder</b>	Esi Awuah
<b>Title of Strategic Award</b>	African SNOWS: strengthening research capacity in environmental health.

**PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES**
**1. The aims and objectives set out in your Strategic Award application are detailed below.**

The African SNOWS Consortium aims to build African capacity for interdisciplinary research in water supply, sanitation and environmental health, bringing together universities from across the continent, with research active universities in the North.

The primary focus of the consortium is to build capacity in research that leads to improved public health by improving water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

The consortium aims to enable African researchers to conduct policy-relevant research on the health impact of environmental interventions, and on how these interventions can be implemented most effectively and taken to scale.

**Since your award began have these objectives been modified at all? Please mark the relevant box.**

Yes       No

**If yes, please detail below how, why and when they have changed.**

The Focus has now been shifted identifying the needs and training staff of partner institutions to carry out and to manage quality research. The change occurred when the grant was awarded, as the budget awarded was more modest than anticipated.

**2. Please provide an overview of the progress you have made to date against the key aims and objectives listed above**

The Consortium building has been initiated with partners holding regular meetings and teleconferences on a monthly basis for the Executive Directorate and quarterly for the management board. The vision of the consortium has also been streamlined.

- a) Northern partners have been collaborating to identify and develop curriculum on research management course. This exercise is almost complete.
- b) Mapping of resources have been initiated in all partner institutions. Mapping reports have been received from 3 Southern partners (MUST, KNUST, Gezira)
- c) Needs Assessment program outlined and dates for visits to southern partner institutions have been fixed. The needs assessment visits have been undertaken at two partners (MUST, Gezira) . Draft reports for the two visits are underway.
- d) Have had 2 management meetings (Accra, Ghana - Dec. 2009, Nakuru, Kenya – July 2010)
- e) Monitoring and Evaluation exercise by Rand Europe and Open University has been initiated.
- f) List of Ongoing and new PhD students who need various forms of support have been provided and shared among all partners.
- g) Five (5) members of the consortium participated in INORMS conference at Cape Town in South Africa in April, 2010.
- h) Director has been to Arusha to share the Consortium's vision and activities with other consortia members.
- i) Directors and Finance Officers have been to UK to provide progress report on the consortium.
- j) Four (4) members of the consortium attended a workshop on Post graduate supervision and training in Blantyre, Malawi from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010.
- k) One exchange visit to set up co-supervision has been carried out (LSHTM & UEA to Tshwane) and another is planned for early 2011 (LSHTM to Gezira)
- l) One PhD scholarship has been found at UEA for a Tshwane student

**3. What are the specific objectives for your Strategic Award *for the coming year*?**

- a) Needs Assessment. The main objective of this exercise is to develop an institution-specific action plan to address research and research management issues.  
Specific objectives are:
  - To strengthen the post-graduate and doctorate programmes at African partner institutions with emphasis on water supply, sanitation and environmental health
  - To strengthen the capacity of administrative, technical and academic staff as well as students through in-country training and exchange programmes
  - To foster stronger linkages between consortium partners
- b) Needs Assessment Survey visits: Since November 2010, two have been completed in Gezira and Mbarara.
- c) Strengthening the Capacity of Staff/Partners : Research management course outline development and Research management training
- d) Co-Supervision of PhD Research and other support to PhD candidates.
- e) Advisory Board Meeting

**4. What are the key issues and risks for your project over the coming year?**

- a) Limited funds to carry out research.
- b) Lack of disposable staff time in Southern institutions for research and project activities after commitments to teaching and administration have been met
- c) Southern partners ability to fulfil requirements i.e. for Needs Assessments (for financial reasons, genesis and development of the Needs Assessments)
- d) Retaining of original member in the SNOWS team and staff continuity build up strong relations but at the same time without overt reliance on a few people
- e) Lack of adequate administrative support in partner institutions.

**5. What can the Wellcome Trust do to help resolve any of these issues or risks?**

Increase funds for training and for PhD research

- a) Ensure funds are released as early as possible
- b) Common templates for reporting and reporting systems
- c) Support in training up of administrators
- d) Continue to be flexible in demands for information.

### 6. Research capacity building- Institutional

Please indicate by marking the relevant box, if your Strategic Award supports any *institutional strengthening* under the following headings and provide details of the outputs of this support to date (e.g. new systems and structures in place), split by research institution as appropriate

	Support provided	Details split by research institution
Infrastructure e.g. research equipment and ICT equipment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ICT equipment for administrative staff in the consortium. Furniture purchased for the SNOWS office at KNUST.
Professional training eg. finance, research management, PhD supervision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Short course in PhD supervision in Malawi: A member from Mbarara - Sudan, 2 members from Egerton - Kenya and one from Venda – South Africa participated. The training supervision in Ghana was attended by 3 SNOWS members from KNUST.
Financial systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All Governance concerning Financial due
Research administration systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workshops in Research Administration systems yet to begin
Research training courses (e.g. new Masters programmes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not done yet
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

### PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES, OUTPUTS & OUTCOMES

### 7. Research capacity building- Individuals

Please indicate by marking the relevant box, if your Strategic Award supports any *individual training* and provide numbers of students enrolled and a description of the outputs of this support to date (eg. number registered, passed upgrading process, completed), split by research institution as appropriate

	Training provided	Quantity	Description by research institution
Masters students	<input type="checkbox"/>		Not Applicable
PhD students	<input type="checkbox"/>		Not Applicable
Junior researchers/ Post doctoral researchers	<input type="checkbox"/>		Not Applicable
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/>		Not Applicable

researchers			
Technicians / other research staff	<input type="checkbox"/>		Not Applicable
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### 8. Research networks & collaborations

(a) Please tell us the *location* (institution and country) of your collaborators and detail whether these collaborations are at an individual, department, faculty or institutional level.

(b) Please provide brief details in the box below on how any networks and collaborations established as part of your Strategic Award are progressing and any problems you have encountered to date.

SHARE Collaboration process peer reviewed papers

### 9. Research publications

(a) Please provide details of accepted peer-reviewed research papers, books or monographs (either published or in press) associated with your Strategic Award. Please include PubMedCentral (PMC) or PubMed ID where available.

Please remember to deposit your paper in UKPMC <https://ukmss.mimas.ac.uk/ukmss/login/uls.cgi?rss=wt&url=../sub.cgi?login=wt>.

Box will expand on entry. If you do not have any publications associated with this award to-date leave this space blank.

#### Published

Not Applicable

<b>In press</b>
<p><b>(b) Have you produced or contributed to any other <u>non peer-reviewed</u> reports, policy documents and/or briefings ('grey literature') as a result of your Strategic Award? Mark the relevant box.</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If yes, please provide details in the box below.</b></p>

**10. Research resources, data & intellectual property**

**Have there been any of the following types of research resources, datasets and intellectual property arising directly from this Strategic Award? Please indicate by marking the relevant box and provide details.**

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details by research institution</b>
New software	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
New database	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
New dataset for community use (open access)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
New training courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
New community resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
New research resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Licences	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**11. Translation of research**

**Has there been any impact on policy or practice at any research institution as a result of your Strategic Award? Mark the relevant box.**

Yes       Discussions in progress       No

**If yes or 'in progress', please provide details by research institution in the box below.**

Incorporation of time management and report writing into the MSc course on Research Methodology at KNUST and change of attitude towards Graduate students.

<b>12. Engagement &amp; dissemination activity</b>		
<b>Have you conducted any of the following types of communication and / or engagement activity associated with the work of your Strategic Award to date? Please indicate by marking the relevant box and provide details.</b>		
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details by research institution</b>
Academic workshop/conference presentations	<input type="checkbox"/>	INORMS, PhD supervision training in Ghana and Malawi, participation in One Health meeting in Ghana. Needs Assessment meetings with Academic Staff, MSc. /PhD Students,
Presentations to non-academic audiences (including schools)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presentation on the overview of SNOWS was presented at the National Level Learning Alliance Platform (NLLAP) in Accra, Ghana. The presentation was done by the SNOWS project manager and supported by the Director. The NLLAP is a WASH sector multi stakeholder platform with the overall goal of improving sector learning and dialogue. It is hosted by the Ghana WASH Resource Centre Network (RCN). The platform offers learning and sharing opportunity for sector players as one of the practical approaches to improving sector engagements/sharing with the long term aim of achieving a knowledge driven WASH sector that delivers quality and sustainable services in Ghana.</li> <li>Needs Assessment meeting with MUST (Mbarara) top management and Research Administrators/Managers</li> </ul>
Feedback to research participants and related communities (if relevant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Meetings or discussions with policy makers/healthcare professionals	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Media coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**13. Please tell us in the box below about:**

**(a) the management and governance structures set in place to support your Strategic Award**

- **Management Committee:** One representative from each partner university. Its purpose is to provide strategic direction to, and oversight of the management of the Consortium. The committee meets at least once annually and by teleconference quarterly
- **Executive Directorate:** Consists of Director, Deputy Director, two other representatives (Prof. Hunter from UEA and Prof. Abdelrahman from Gezira), the project manager and the finance officer. The directorate is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Consortium (ensures successful financial and academic management of the consortium). Meets by teleconference.
- **Scientific Directors:** Director & Deputy Director. They ensure smooth running of the project.
- **External Advisory Committee:** The committee is expected to provide an independent source of advice and guidance on the strategic management of the consortium. Specifically the committee is composed of the following people:
  1. Albert Wright, ex-KNUST Kumasi & World Bank.
  2. Arif Hasan, Urban Resource Centre, Karachi
  3. Barbara Evans, University of Leeds
  4. Pete Kolsky, World Bank
  5. Therese Dooley, UNICEF
  6. A representative of the Wellcome Trust
  7. Ex-officio members : Director and Deputy Director of SNOWS
  8. Members of the Executive Directorate can be invited to participate in their meetings

**(b) the dates on which the key governance bodies have met- Management board and Advisory Committee**

Meeting Dates:

- a) **Management Committee** : 1<sup>st</sup> meeting : 3 – 5 December, 2009 (Accra, Ghana), 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: 26 – 30 July 2010 (Nakuru, Kenya), 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting : July 2011 (South Africa)
- b) **Executive Directorate:** Six (6) meetings by Teleconference and one (1) face-to-face meeting
- c) **External Advisory Committee: 6 – 7 January 2011**

**(c) any problems you have encountered and how you are working to address them .**

Visa acquisition problems for Sudan members in Africa and in Europe



d)

**14. Please provide details in the box below of the level of support and contribution of your host institution(s) to your Strategic Award.**

- a) Provision of office space
- b) Good cooperation from Vice Chancellor, Provost and Head of Department
- c) documentation required by the project, project supervisory/coordination support,
- d) granting the local coordinator and local SNOWS group time off to engage in activities of the project (in the case of Mbarara)

**15. Please provide details in the box below of any additional funding leveraged by your Strategic Award**

- a) Saudi Bank award for PhD student in Ghana
- b) USAID support to a PhD student in Ghana
- c) Applications made to Bill Gates foundation.
- d) Award for student from Tshwane to study for PhD at UEA

**ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK**

**15. Do you have any further comments you would like to make regarding this Wellcome Trust Strategic Award, the conduct of this project, or any difficulties you have encountered?**

- a) Low enthusiasm among members because of the deep cut in budget
- b) Trying to encourage members to use SNOWS as a stepping stone to build a strong consortium and work together to source for funds to cater for PhD research.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.**

**If you have any queries please contact Alice Norton, International Activities Officer tel: 020 7611 8515 email: [a.norton@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:a.norton@wellcome.ac.uk).**

**Please email your completed form to [a.norton@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:a.norton@wellcome.ac.uk)**