

# International Research and Collaboration

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Project ADDUP  
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## Presentation Outline



- The Project
- Working With MUHEC
- Some Critical Incidents
- Professional Issues?
- Lessons Learned

## The Project - Context



- Project ADDUP
- Wide differences in pay and benefits
- Aid, business, education and govt sectors
- Initial observations (Malaŵi)
- Topic is Taboo
  - “It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it” (Upton Sinclair)

## The Project – People!



- Funding application
  - Research Services
- International Advisors
- Development Agencies
- Stakeholder Teams...
- MUHEC

## Working with MUHEC



- Phase I ADDUP - Site Visits
- Phase II – Main study
- “If it Ain’t broke...”
- Timelines and Complexity
- Goodwill and Support

## Key Strengths



- Friends not Foes
- Professional Rapport
- Frequent meetings
- Can meet in person
- Accountable *Process*

## Critical Incidents (inevitable)



- Mini-narratives
- E.g., A Colombian “boilerplate”
- Positive vs. Negative (outcomes)
- Key = How Process *Managed*
- *Process* (skills/protocols)

## Critical Incidents - Positive



- Privacy about Pay
- Cultural mores
- Legal contracts and Acts
- An occasional email
- Safety Net-*work*

## Professional Issues



- Centralization vs. Localisation
- Standardization vs. Contextualisation
  - Local and *Regional*
- Cultural Competence & Safety
- A good Project Manager
- Capacity Development
- Intellectual Property?

## Professional Issues



- Centralisation *and* localisation (NZ\$)
- Standardization *via* contextualisation
- Inclusivity re local Subject-Matter Experts
- Cultural competence is managerially vital
- “CD” is a major feature, not a ‘sidebar’
- There *is* no “IP” (in ADDUP)

## Lessons Learned - Content



- One head does not carry the roof
- Nobody is smarter than everybody
- N.B. “Ubuntu”
  - Bantu: *Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu* ("a person is a person through (other) persons")
- Relationship before Task
- No one size fits all

## Lessons Learned - Process



- A steep learning curve/slope
- Design for multiple sources of Advice:-
  - International
  - Local
  - Inter-disciplinary
  - Community
- Build-in: Foundational site visits and input
- Include all project and community stakeholders (e.g., phase III – workshops)

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING -  
AND FOR SUPPORTING ADDUP!!**



- QUESTIONS?