

# OER in Africa

**Partnerships for Effective Collaboration**

# Who we are

- **OER Africa** is an innovative new project, headquartered in **Nairobi**, under the auspices of **SAIDE**.
- Established to play a leading role in **driving** the **development** and **use** of **OER in Africa**.
- Provides a common conceptual framework for SAIDE OER-related activities
- Current funding from the **William & Flora Hewlett Foundation** and others, to harness African experts and expertise to deploy OER to the benefit of Africa's higher education systems.

# OER and Quality Improvement

- African higher education institutions seriously structurally under-funded for the core function they are expected to discharge.
- Therefore, corresponding paucity of institutional and individual capacity to teach in many domains of higher education.
- Existing faculty overtaxed in time and ability to teach, reducing time available for ongoing program and materials development.

# OER and Quality Improvement

- Many higher education programs on the continent have inadequate funds to run programmes and meet the educational needs of enrolled students *as well as* cover the costs of faculty time required both to design and run quality learning experiences.
- Too few learning resources for learners and lecturers in African universities, and many of those available are too expensive to be purchased by universities or students.

# OER and Quality Improvement

- Much existing content available to and within African universities based on weak and largely outmoded educational design principles.
- Limited ICT infrastructure to gain access to up-to-date information available on the Internet and participate in inter-institutional, geographically dispersed collaborative activities.

# Why do we exist?

- **OER Africa** believes that OER can positively support development and capacity of higher education systems and institutions across Africa.
- **OER Africa** is concerned that – if the concept and practice of OER evolves predominantly outside and for Africa – we will not be able to liberate its potential.

# Our Operational Approach

- **Wherever possible, to try to build relationships with existing networks of African education systems, institutions, and educators, and provide support of different kinds to the networks, to institutions, and to individual educators:**

# Partnerships

- Relationship between individuals or group... characterised by mutual co-operation and responsibility ... for the achievement of a specific goal
- ...a formal agreement between two or more parties that have agreed to work together in pursuit of common goals



Global Partnership

By

Tanzanian cartoonist Ally Massoud



# African Health OER Network

## Objectives:

- To strengthen the intellectual & policy infrastructure within and between African institutions in order to grow a vibrant *Health OER* network
- To systematically draw in more African and global participants to create, adapt, share and use OER to the benefit of health education in Africa
- To develop models of collaboration and sustainability that can be replicated in other regions of the world

# OER Africa Activities

## Structured Institutional Engagement:

- Initial OER Sensitization & Exploration;
- Policy Reviews to support development supportive institutional environment;
- Materials Audits;
- Proof of Concept Pilots in support of the reinvention of African higher education program curricula;

# ACE Maths

- Chosen area in teacher education: Primary Maths in a diverse classroom
- Twelve educators from eight institutions participated
- Committed themselves to using the materials
- Chose a module, not a whole programme
- Started with some existing materials
- Team approach for design but single author
- Formed a 'community of practice'

# ACE Maths

- Used in a variety of ways
- Re-used – Used the work verbatim, just exactly as they found it
- Rework – Altered or transformed the work so that it better suited their needs
- Remixed – Combined the (verbatim or altered) work with other works to better meet their needs
- Redistributed – Shared the work with others (Wiley 2008)

# University of Malawi

- **Kamusu College of Nursing**
  - **Problem-based learning approach**
  - **Supported by OER from inter-alia University of Michigan**
  - **Emphasis on course design as well as on the range of video resources**

# University of Malawi



25th November, 2009

OpenLearn - OER & Successful  
Partnerships

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OER Africa 

# University of Malawi

*“... Because the materials are already there you don't need to invent the wheel and they shorten the time needed to prepare new teaching materials. With OER it is easy to adapt them to your needs. Reusing quality OER also assists staff grow in confidence in teaching the content of the materials.”*

Rebecca Ngalande, Lecturer and Coordinator of the KCN OER project.

# University of Malawi

## Bunda College of Agriculture

- Responded to the need for 'Communications Studies' resources
- 103 page book created from OER



# University of Malawi

“... the first project was an eye opener and we had a number of issues we had to deal with. However, we have seen how the adapted materials were received by the students and are aware of the processes we should follow now. Adaptation in the future will be even easier.”