Enhancing the Equity of our Research Partnerships:

The evidence base and LSHTM's approach
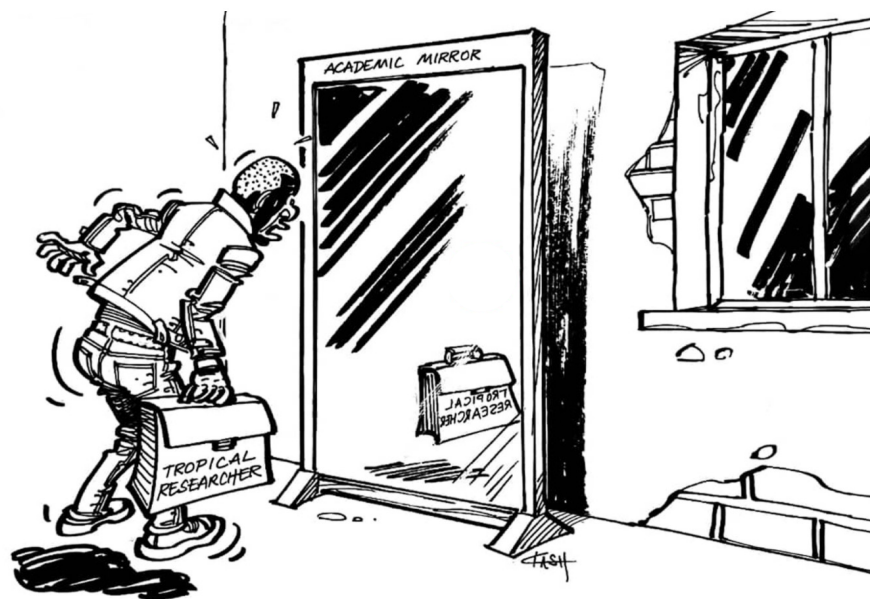
October 2022

Catherine Goodman, Shirine Voller, Ginny Bond

LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE &TROPICAL MEDICINE

Partnerships in Global Health

- Partnership terminology entered into global health discourse over 30 years ago

- Challenges 'old' ways of 'doing' research in developing countries, neo-colonial and paternalistic

- Demands for change reflecting:

  - increase in capacity of southern research institutions, leading to a re-distribution of power

  - growing awareness of the role of HIC stakeholders in perpetuating inequities

  - the decolonising global health movement bringing these issues into the spotlight

Tembo Kash, Bukavu Series 2020, https://bukavuseries.com/the-bukavu-expo/

Partckerships failures

Differential access to:

- Funding
- Knowledge
- Expert networks
- Development opportunities

Unequal influence on:

- Agenda setting
- Project design
- Administration & budget management
- Ethics & managerial standards

Unbalanced:

- Roles & hierarchy
- Authorship
- Transparency & accountability

RESEARCH   **Open Access**

Check for updates

"We should be at the table together from the beginning": perspectives on partnership from stakeholders at four research institutions in sub-Saharan Africa

Shirine Voller[1]*, Chama-Chiliba Miriam Chitalu[2], Alinane Linda Nyondo-Mipando[3], Timothy Opobo[4], Clare Ahabwe Bangirana[4], Nicki Thorogood[5], Joanna Schellenberg[6] and Primus Chi[7]

Benefits of partnership

- Capacity strengthening
- Access to funds
- Exposure to opportunities

"You want to partner with others because it also helps you to be within the community of the same people who are working over the same things and it increases your influence and net worth."

What makes partnerships work well?

- Early involvement of all partners

- Mutual respect; recognition of each partner's contribution

- Clear roles and responsibilities

- Strong communication and joint decision-making

- Understanding challenges of operating in resource-limited settings

- Long-term relationships

"If we are really partners then we should be sitting at the table together from the beginning, all the way through the budgeting, so that it's fair across the line."

Problems

- Late involvement and confined role
- Exploitative relationships
- HIC partner entitlement
- Inauthenticity
- Micromanagement
- HIC partner unwilling to adopt subordinate role

"…they go in, like IN. It's like when you enter the house and you are invited to sit in the sitting room, someone can go up to the bedroom."

"There was resistance initially in terms of them [HIC partners] being at the mercy of the Southern partner in terms of the Southern partner determining… what support they needed"

LSHTM's Approach
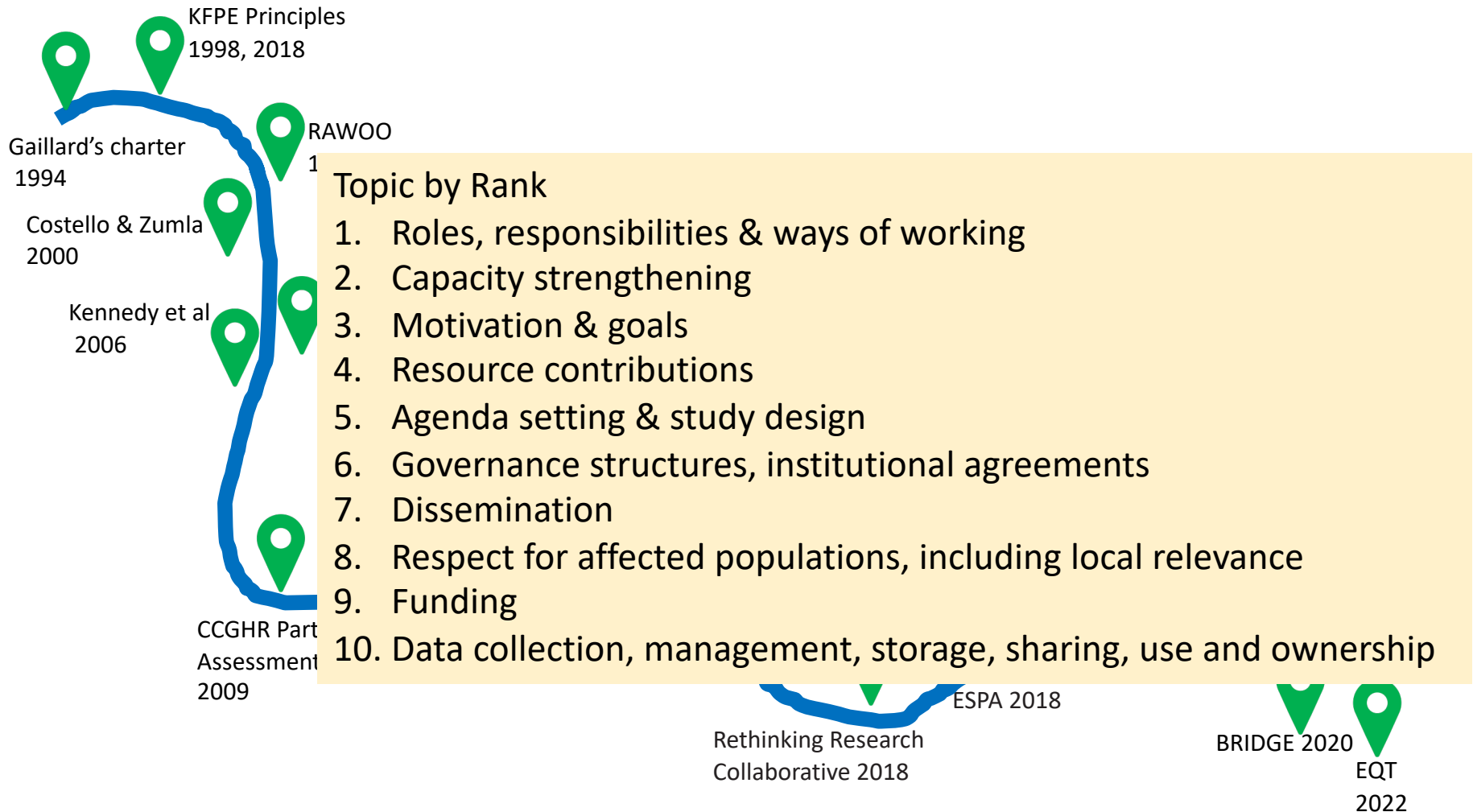
Equitable Partnerships Action Plan

Overarching Goal: Develop more equitable research and educational partnerships

Through:

- Piloting EquiPar Tool on Supporting Equitable Partnerships for Research Projects

- Review LSHTM-level policies and procedures – current focus:

  - Good research practice and research ethics

  - Research grant finance and contracting

- Develop case studies of good practice

- Develop and provide training/awareness raising sessions

- Regular school-wide open meetings

The EquiPar Tool – Supporting Equitable Partnerships for Research Projects

Review of principles & guidelines

KFPE Principles
1998, 2018

RAWOO

Gaillard's charter
1994

Costello & Zumla
2000

Kennedy et al
2006

CCGHR Part
Assessment
2009

Topic by Rank
1. Roles, responsibilities & ways of working
2. Capacity strengthening
3. Motivation & goals
4. Resource contributions
5. Agenda setting & study design
6. Governance structures, institutional agreements
7. Dissemination
8. Respect for affected populations, including local relevance
9. Funding
10. Data collection, management, storage, sharing, use and ownership

ESPA 2018

Rethinking Research
Collaborative 2018
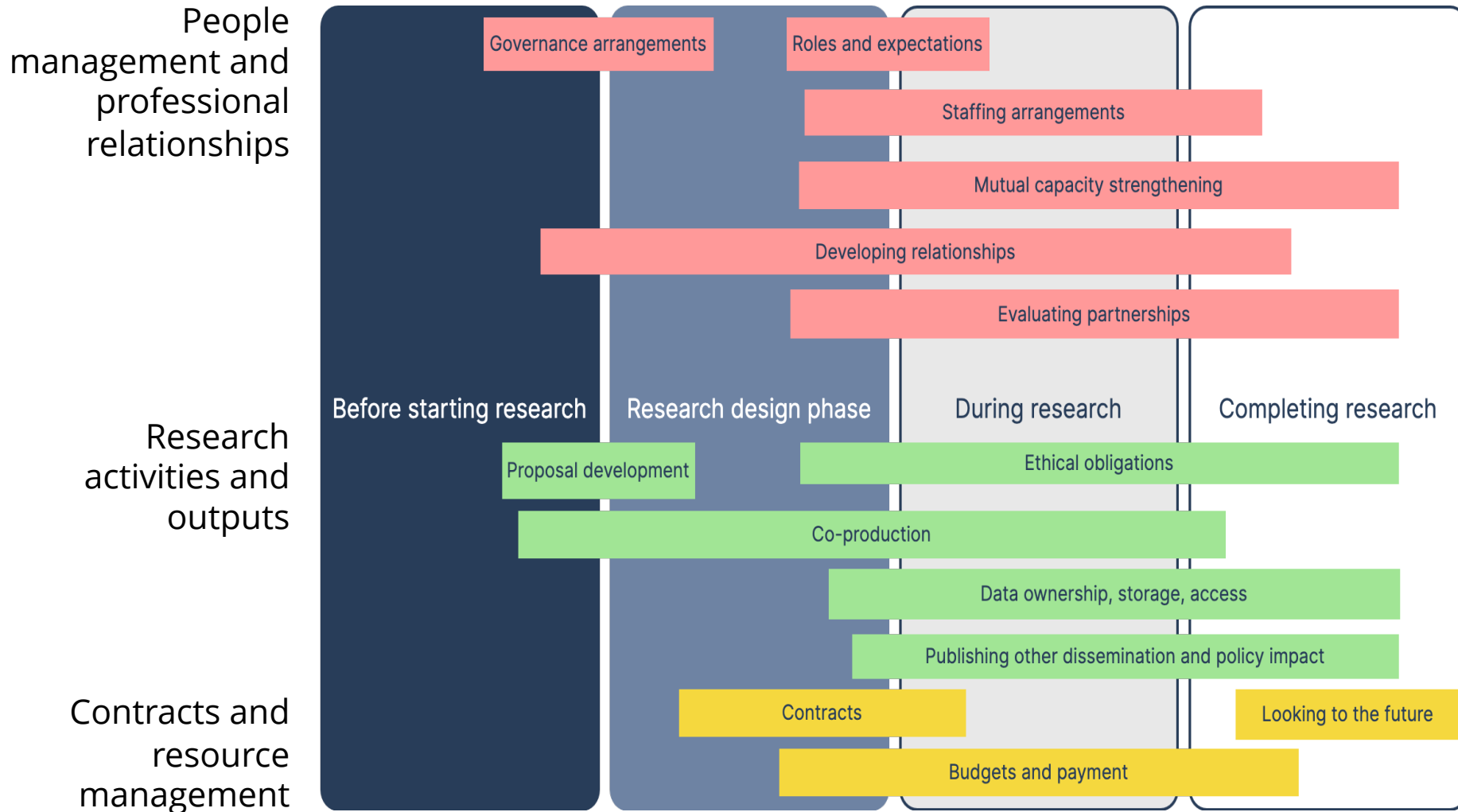
BRIDGE 2020

EQT
2022

Many of these are available on UKCDR Equitable Partnerships Resource
Hub www.ukcdr.org.uk/guidance/equitable-partnerships-hub/

Voller et al, HPP 2022

The EquiPar Tool

- Aim: Provide systematic & practical guidance for setting up and/or strengthening partnerships

- Geared towards individual research projects (not institutional-level collaborations)

- Stimulate research project teams to discuss partnership issues, and develop appropriate strategies for our project

- List of discussion questions, and resources in three key areas:

The EquiPar Tool

- What are our <u>governance</u> arrangements?
- Have we jointly agreed on the <u>roles and expectations</u> of each partner?
- What is our pl...
- What consider...
  arrangements...
- What activities...
- How will we ev...

- *Have we considered opportunities for distributed leadership?*
- *How we will communicate?*
- *What principles/approaches will we follow to foster transparency in our partnership?*
- *How will we deal with any conflicts/concerns that may arise?*
- *Do partners know who to contact at LSHTM if feel concerns not addressed properly?*

- How can we m____
  contribute to p____
- What opportu____
  production int____
- How will we m____
  partnership?
- Do we have an equitable plan for <u>publishing, other dissemination and policy impact</u>?
- How can we ensure equitable <u>ownership, storage, access and use of data and samples</u>?

> - *How will we decide which outputs to produce and who does what?*
> - *Have we agreed authorship principles?*
> - *Have we agreed on a set of principles for other dissemination e.g. internet, press, social media?*
>   *Are outputs accessible to people with different types of disabilities?*

Contracting & resource management

- Budget & payment
- Contractual arrangements
- Looking to the future

- *Do all partners have adequate resources for what they've been asked to do, both financially and in kind?*
- *Does the budget cover key aspects of equitable partnerships such as co-production, capacity strengthening, writing up time and publication costs?*
- *Have overheads been included fairly for each institution?*
- *Has an appropriate payment schedule been draw up? Will partners receive advances where necessary?*

Resources

Each section includes links to useful resources either in public domain or project documents from LSHTM collaborations

Resources: Research activities and outputs

Publication and other outputs

E-pharmacy template for Publication Guidelines and Plan (on MS teams)

AMFm Dissemination Principles (on MS teams)

LSHTM documents and guidance on data management:

General LSHTM guidance on Research Data Management

LSHTM guidance on data protection and GDPR – Go to - Service Desk / Legal, Research contracts & data protection / Data Protection and GDPR

LSHTM Data Storage Options

Co-production Resources:

NIHR Guidance on co-producing a research project (Feb 2019)

NIHR Reflective questions to support co-produced research (May 2020)

Lokot & Wake, The co-production of research between academics, NGOs and communities in humanitarian response: a practice guide. LSHTM 2021

Evaluation of the Pilot of the EquiPar Tool

Aim: To assess the perceptions and experiences of LSHTM staff and our partners in using the EquiPar Tool in selected research projects, and to identify options for improvement

PIs: Catherine Goodman, Virginia Bond

Co-Investigators: Amiya Bhatia, Lucy Gilson, Rachel Kawuma, Tolib Mirzoev, Dorcas Obiri-Yeboah, Fredros Okumu, Walaiporn Patcharanarumol, Joanna Schellenberg, Abdul Karim Sesay, Prashanth N Srinivas, Shirine Voller

| Select 5-8 projects | → | Consultative Workshop | → | 6 month pilot

Ongoing online feedback | → | Data collection:

Online survey

IDIs

Closing workshop |

Thankyou!

All comments and suggestions very welcome..

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