



## Universities Scotland's response to International Development Policy consultation

Universities Scotland welcomes the Scottish Government's strategic overview of international development and appreciates the chance to comment on how best the International Development Fund (IDF) can be used. The Scottish higher education sector strongly supports External Affairs Minister Linda Fabiani's announcement on doubling the International Development Fund to £9 million with £3 million committed to Malawi. Other comments on the IDF are as followed:

### International development activities within Scottish higher education sector

The Scottish higher education sector is a major deliverer of a wide range of distinctive international development activities, some of which have been funded by the IDF. Since the International Development Fund was set up in 2005, a minimum of £1 million per year has been awarded to the Scottish higher education institutions to deliver its objectives. Over one third of all the projects funded by the scheme are carried out by the Scottish higher education institutions. As a strong supporter of international development, the excellent projects our institutions are delivering cover a wide range of areas which extend beyond just education capacity building. Annex A provides information on a range of international development projects undertaken by Scottish higher education institutions.

### Subject priorities

The range of subject priorities stated in the International Development Policy is rather narrow. The international development projects of the higher education sector cover a wide range of activities from agriculture development to hydro power to tropical diseases control. We therefore feel that the thematic priorities of Education, Health and Civil Society development restrict the range of quality projects which Scotland can deliver. We support the thematic priorities of Education, Health and Civil Society development, but we would also like to see the inclusion of others such as energy, economic development and environment. Given the Scottish capacity to deliver, we should provide the priority countries with the very best we can offer in all areas with a particular emphasis on where we can add value.

### Fit-for-purpose projects

To get the best value from the IDF the projects should be guided by three principles: **Viability, Sustainability and Excellence** to make sure the IDF is fit-for-purpose. The needs of the international development partner countries should be the first consideration. The Scottish higher education institutions have an excellent track record in terms of delivery and quality. We feel, given the size of the budget, it should be targeted at the places where the need is greatest and where the maximum sustainable impact can be achieved. The potential to derive greater impact through leverage on other funding and budgets could also be taken into consideration. An appropriate evidence base to inform funding decisions and monitoring systems to evaluate impact will make the

international development policy more effective. It is also important to promote national leadership of development activities by developing countries themselves.

### **Geographic principle**

The Scottish higher education sector has a good reputation in international development and already has well established relationships which we wish to strengthen. The geographic focus should include those countries which have historic ties and strong Scottish links. Many of these countries have already benefited from the international development projects carried out by the higher education sector, and we consider it important to provide continuity.

## Annex A

The Scottish higher education institutions are delivering a wide range of international development projects beyond just education capacity building.

Academic/research centres  
 Academics exchange  
 Agriculture development—farming, livestock, soil and crops, pest control  
 Animal health  
 Anti-malaria treatments research  
 City schools network collaboration  
 Civil engineering  
 Consultancy and advisory—health sector reform, government healthcare policy, introducing international accountancy standards, schooling regimes and policy, language policy  
 Electrical and electronic engineering  
 Energy, mineral and water law  
 Equality and diversity research  
 Film making  
 Healthcare  
 Hydro power  
 In-country delivery of education  
 Law  
 Mass media  
 Nursing and midwifery development  
 Online distance learning  
 Professionals training—teachers, nurses, scientists, engineers, veterinary surgeons  
 Tropical diseases control  
 Urban development  
 Water privatisation research  
 Water quality control

The International Development Fund was awarded to the following projects led by the Scottish higher education sector in 2005 and 2006.

### November 2005

Countries/Areas	Projects	Fund
<b>MALAWI</b>	Integrated Child Lung Project , Malawi - The University of Edinburgh	Total Funding - £250,000 over three years
	Sustainable Utilisation of Aquatic Resources for Poverty Reduction, Malawi - Institute of Aquaculture , University of Stirling	Total Funding - £247,000 over three years

	Reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality, Malawi - University of Strathclyde	Total Funding - £166,000 over three years
	Scotland/Malawi Partnership - The University of Strathclyde	Total Funding - £103,000 over three years
	Making Wonders - Enhancing the Education of the Blind in Malawi (Phase 2) - The University of Strathclyde	Total Funding - £196,000 over three years
<b>SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (general)</b>	Higher Education capacity building and collaboration in Sub-Saharan Africa - The University of Edinburgh Centre for African Studies	Total Funding - £72,000 over two years
	The Scotland-African Directory - The University of Edinburgh Centre for African Studies	Total Funding - £29,000 over two years
<b>SRI LANKA</b>	Building capacity for social healing in post-conflict and post-tsunami Sri Lanka - The University of Edinburgh	Total Funding - £55,000 over three years
		<b>Total: 8 Projects</b>
		<b>£1,073,000</b>

September 2006

<b>Countries/Areas</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Fund</b>
<b>MALAWI</b>	Transferring Technological Expertise to Primary Healthcare in Rural Malawi - Bell College	Total £221,800
	Educational Development of Acute Care skills and transfer of clinical simulation technology and educational methodology to Kamuzu college of nursing and to College of Health Sciences - Bell College	Total £99,537
	Development of a support programme for newly qualified practitioners during the first year of employment - Bell College	Total £24,000

	Scottish Support for Health Management Capacity Building in Malawi- Institute for International Health and Development, Queen Margaret College	Total £171,000
	Using E-Learning to Build Capacity for Health Care Professional Education in Malawi- Edinburgh University Learning Technology Section & NES (NHS Education Scotland )	Total £176,000
	Partnership in Higher Education- The Scotland-Malawi Partnership	Total £181,755
	Developing Partnership Links between Dundee University Medical School & Healthcare Institutions in Malawi- Dundee School of Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery	Total £30,000
<b>SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Excluding Malawi)</b>	Environmental Management and Sustainable Development Training Programme- University of Glasgow	Total £104,540
		<b>Total: 8 Projects</b>
		<b>£1,008,632</b>