

Strengthening capability in global health economics in Africa: a contribution from CHE

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CHE's global health economics programme of research is expanding. In the African context, many of the activities fall under the Thanzi programme. This has evolved from being one programme (Thanzi la Onse) to a collection of related projects. One of these projects - Thanzi Labwino (TLab) which means "better health" - is building health economics research knowledge and increasing the availability of skilled health economists in the workforce in Africa. The project works in partnership with policy makers to improve decisions on investment in disease elimination. Policymakers are co-developing research knowledge in ways that feed into policy processes nationally and regionally, to maximise the use of evidence by ministries of health and disease control programmes. This requires accompanying capability building, including doing local research to generate relevant evidence. Policymakers also need to be equipped with the skills to critically appraise and use health economics research evidence to inform their decision-making.

TLab is helping to improve capability among academic, policy and community stakeholders to generate, interpret and use health economic evidence to inform disease elimination and resource allocation decisions. The stakeholders are learning from each other through stronger partnerships.

The project is taking four main approaches to capability building. First, the University of York is offering fully funded Health Economics Distance Learning MSc Studentships. The first cohort of students began their studies in September 2023 and are from Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe. They will be supported through course tutors, peer-to-peer networking and post-graduate support services.

Second, training courses are being provided based-needs identified in-country on topics such as health benefit package design and health care financing.

Third, TLab partners are developing new post-graduate health economics curricula, including at Kamuzu University of Malawi and Makerere University of Uganda.

Fourth, the Global Health Economics hub online is being developed. This is a repository of freely available training and educational materials such as narrated slides, webinars and literature. It is being developed with, and for use by researchers, medical professionals, policy-makers and those with an interest in health economics.

We look forward to continually strengthening our partner collaborations and health economics capability in Africa.

More about the project: [TLab](#) is co-led by the University of York and the East Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) with our collaborators Imperial College London, University College London, Kamuzu University of Malawi and Makerere University of Uganda. New partners will be identified during the 3-year project (start date: 01/03/23 finish date: 28/02/26).

Further information on the Distance Learning studentships can be found [on the Thanzi website](#).

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