

F. B.C. PERSPECTIVE ON UNIVERSITY- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Enhancing Capacities for Sustainable Community Engagement:
Cases of Georgia and Sierra Leone

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OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION

1. THE UNIVERSITY'S ROLE IN SHAPING SOCIETY
2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
3. THE ENHANCE-GSL PROJECT
4. CASES OF ENGAGEMENT (USL-F.B.C. POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT)

CONCLUSION

THE UNIVERSITY'S ROLE IN SHAPING SOCIETY

Three key duties of universities:

- Teaching
- Research
- Community service

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

What is it:

- a collaborative partnership between the university and its local or global community
- the integration of the university's key functions - teaching, research, and service—to enhance learning for students,
- The university's contribution to societal well-being, and drive economic and social development.
- This engagement can include student internships, community-based research, service-learning projects, and other initiatives that connect academic work with real-world application.

Purpose of partnership:

- to address local issues through mutually beneficial exchanges of knowledge, resources & skills

THE ENHANCE-GSL PROJECT

- What is it? A consortium of 6 universities
- Its aim: 1. to build the capacities of higher education institutions in engaging more effectively with their local communities.
2. to enable universities serve as engines of social change and inclusive development.
- How? - by the training of selected participants on community engagement within university settings in curricular and non-curricular settings.
 - by sharing experiences and learning from one another,
- Outcome: - redefining the role of higher education as an active contributor to national and global development goals.
 - students and teachers learn with the community through collaboration and shared outcomes.

CASES OF ENGAGEMENT

(USL-F.B.C. POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT)

1. Teaching:

- Integration of society issues into the curriculum: civic education and election management
- Internship to MDAs and institutions

2. Research

- Opinion polls
- Think tank of society

3. Outreach:

- Political participation
- Civic education
- Advocacy for special issues like substance abuse and political violence during elections



THE END

THANK YOU