



Bridging Academia and Community Development: Strengthening University–Community Partnerships for Sustainable Impact



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UNISERVITATE
Asociatia pentru dezvoltarea si sustinerea serviciilor de voluntariat



What is University–Community Engagement?

- It's collaborative relationships and partnerships between higher education institutions and the communities they serve, aimed at addressing societal challenges, fostering mutual learning and promoting sustainable development.
- It goes beyond traditional outreach or one-way knowledge transfer; it is a reciprocal process that values both academic and community knowledge.
- Both the university and the community benefit and contribute their expertise.
- Co-creation of Knowledge: Solutions are developed collaboratively rather than imposed by academia.



In the African Context:

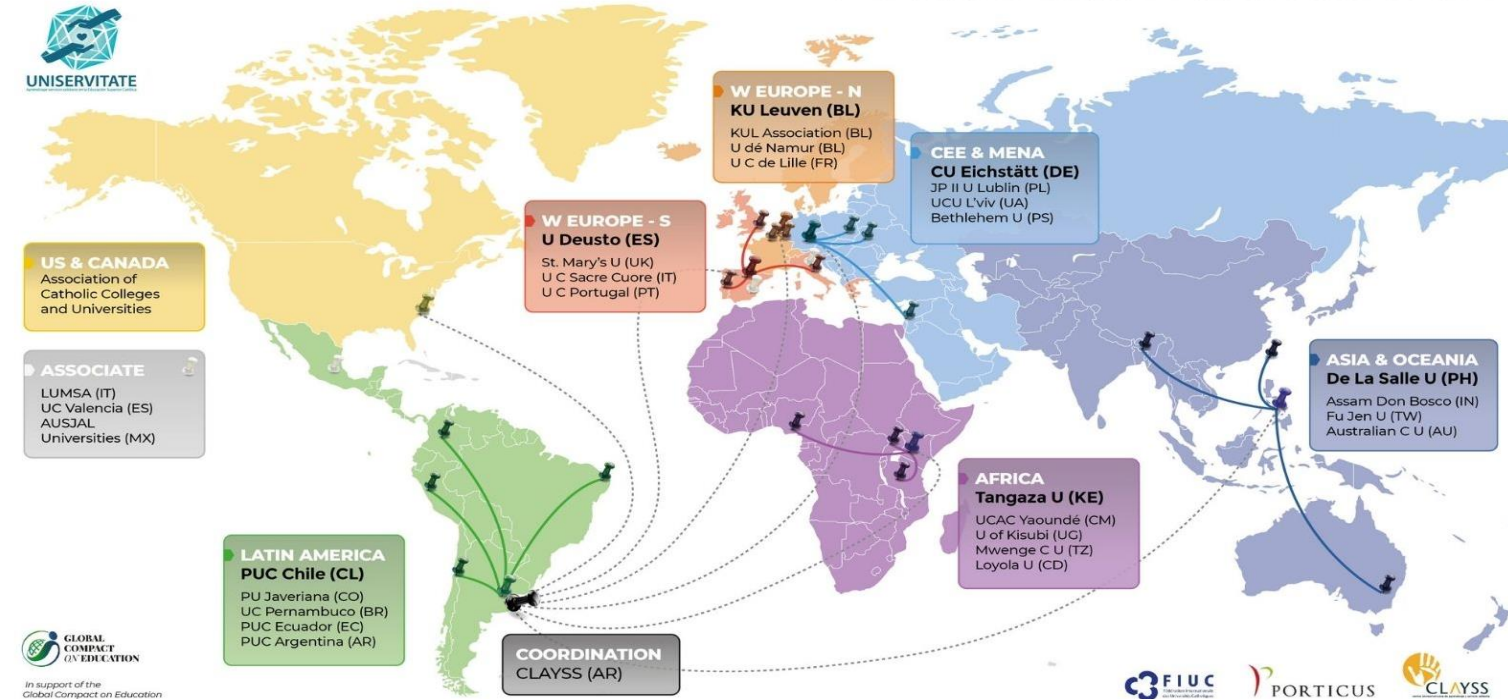
- UCE is increasingly linked to nation building, poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- It aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
- Universities are expected to become agents of social transformation by engaging with communities to co-create solutions rooted in local realities and indigenous knowledge.
- Catholic Education....



Examples of University–Community Engagement

- Service-Learning programs: Students apply classroom knowledge to community-based projects.
- Community-based research: Faculty and students co-design studies addressing local issues.
- Outreach and extension: Universities provide expertise, training, or innovation hubs to local groups.
- Policy partnerships: Collaboration with local governments or NGOs to influence development policies.
- **I have been in this BUSINESS for 5 Years Now...**

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SL in Africa – Making History

**7 REGIONAL HUBS IN THE WORLD
+PARTNER INSTITUTIONS**

68 SUPPORTED UNIVERSITIES

8 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

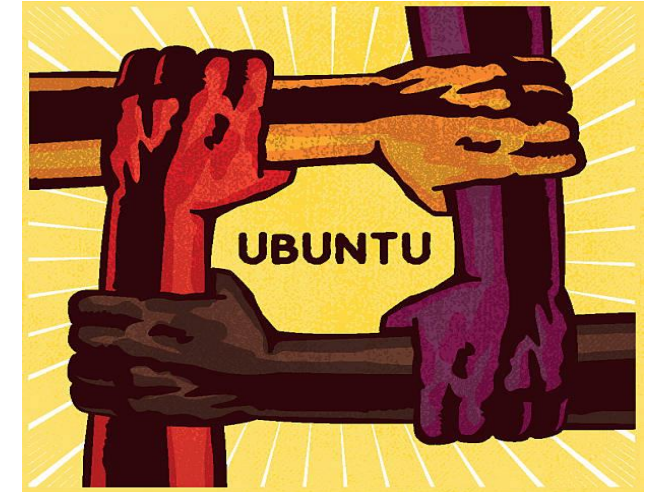
KENYA AND SOUTH AFRICA



- Collective action & Self-Reliance
- Development Projects & national initiatives



- Both promote strong communities
- Positive Social Values
- Working together
- Respecting others
- Recognizing our shared humanity

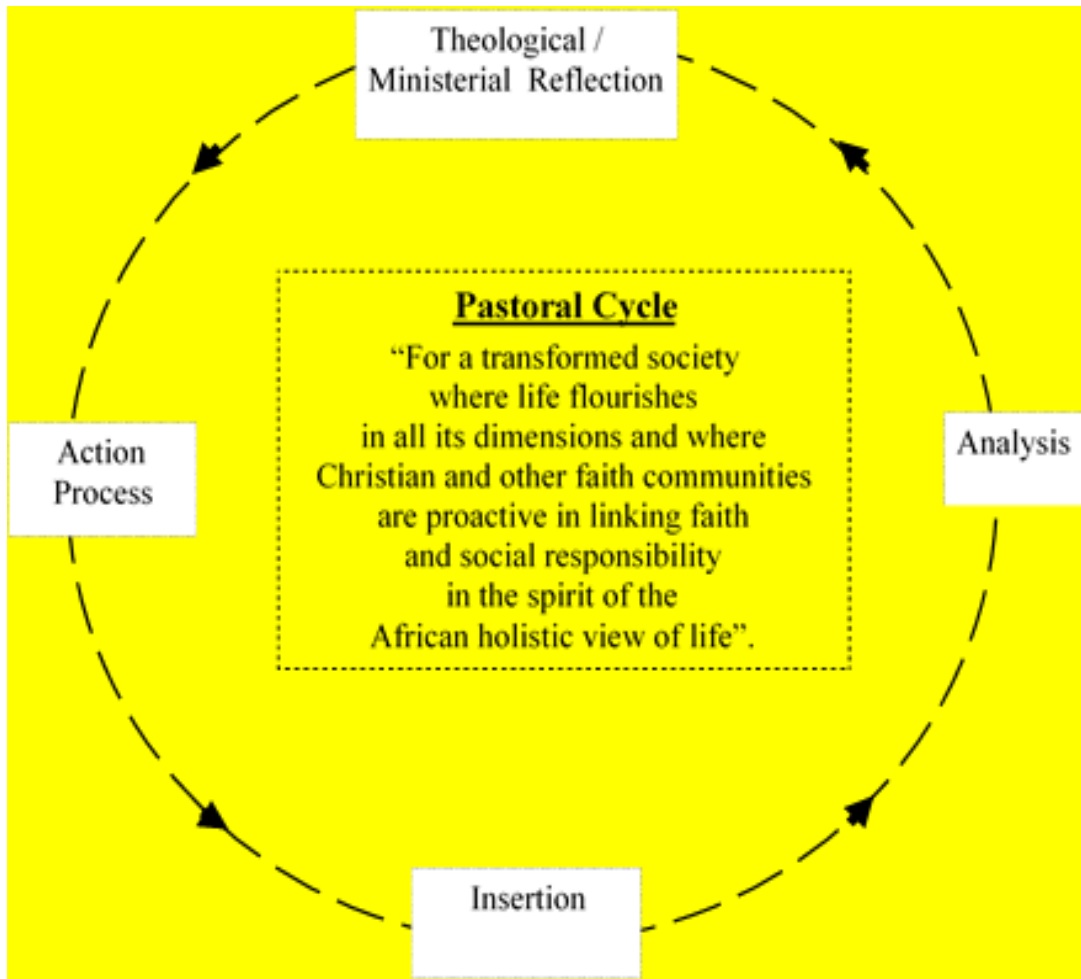


- Compassion & Interconnectedness
- Reconciliation & Social Justice

"Education, if it means anything, should not take people away from the land, but instill in them even more respect for it, because educated people are in a position to understand what is being lost."

~Wangari Maathai~

Unique Educational Methodology



• Rooted in African Tradition

- Connect with traditional African ways of learning
- Addressing Local Realities & Challenges
- Promoting Social Justice & Transformation
- Holistic Approach to Education
- Adaptable and Flexible



Service Learning in the Kenyan Context

Teaching Minds, Touching Hearts, Transforming Lives. and its link to SL

a.

The 4 Service Learning Components: Infrastructure, Community Partnerships, Students & faculty Engagement and Reflection

b.

Tangaza as a Catholic HEI

c.

Tangaza's focus on social justice, faith-based engagement, and university-community partnerships.

d.

The accompanied institutions from Africa Hub– Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Malawi (Nigeria-member).

"Education is not about knowing things or taking lessons but about being able to use three lingos: those of the head, the heart, and the hands..."

~Pope Francis~

Sustaining Service Learning at Tangaza University

- a.** Faculty workshops - Unpacking Community Service Learning Module
- b.** CSL Course - School of Education. Stemming to other SASS, SOT
- c.** Integration into curriculum & co-curricular activities (e.g., SLC Model).
- d.** Institutional & external partnerships for funding and long-term impact i.e Uniservitate and CLAYSS-Inter-hubs engagement
- e.** Student & faculty engagement strategies i.e seminars, clubs, monthly forums, annual conferences.
- f.** Alumni visitations - Assessing their impact with the communities

Successful Service Learning Community Engagements



a.

Psychosocial Support Program with the prison officers.

b.

Community Outreach Program - Lenten Campaign taking place every year

c.

Youth animators training at the Archdiocese of Nairobi

d.

Refugee Empowerment, climate justice

e.

W2W Empowerment –Female scholars reaching out to widows in marginalized communities



UNISERVITATE
A partnership between the University of the South Pacific and the University of the Philippines

Uniservitate_Africa Climate Justice Movement



Service Learning in Kenya Prisons - Psychosocial Support: Unlocking Prison Boundaries



Launch at Kamiti Maximum Men Prisons



Launch at Langata Maximum Women Prisons





CSL COURSE MODULE 4: PLANNING & DESIGNING SL PROJECTS



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Uniservitate Africa Regional Hub



- Developing SL projects aligned with curriculum goals.
- Incorporating CSL into existing courses.
- Designing interdisciplinary CSL experiences
- Addressing logistical and ethical considerations in project design
- Developing Project Goals and Objectives
- Designing curriculum –based service activities
- Project Management and logistics
- Incorporating students’ interests and skills





**TANGAZA
UNIVERSITY**



Women To Women
**WIDOWS
EMPOWERMENT**



Service Learning in Action

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