

# STEPPING UP TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Translating theory into practice:  
Academic-NGO partnerships for the SDGs

**STEPPING UP TO  
THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



**FRANCES GUY**  
**Chief Executive**

**Scotland's International Development Alliance**



**IMAGINE WINNING**





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**LINK**  
**EDUCATION**

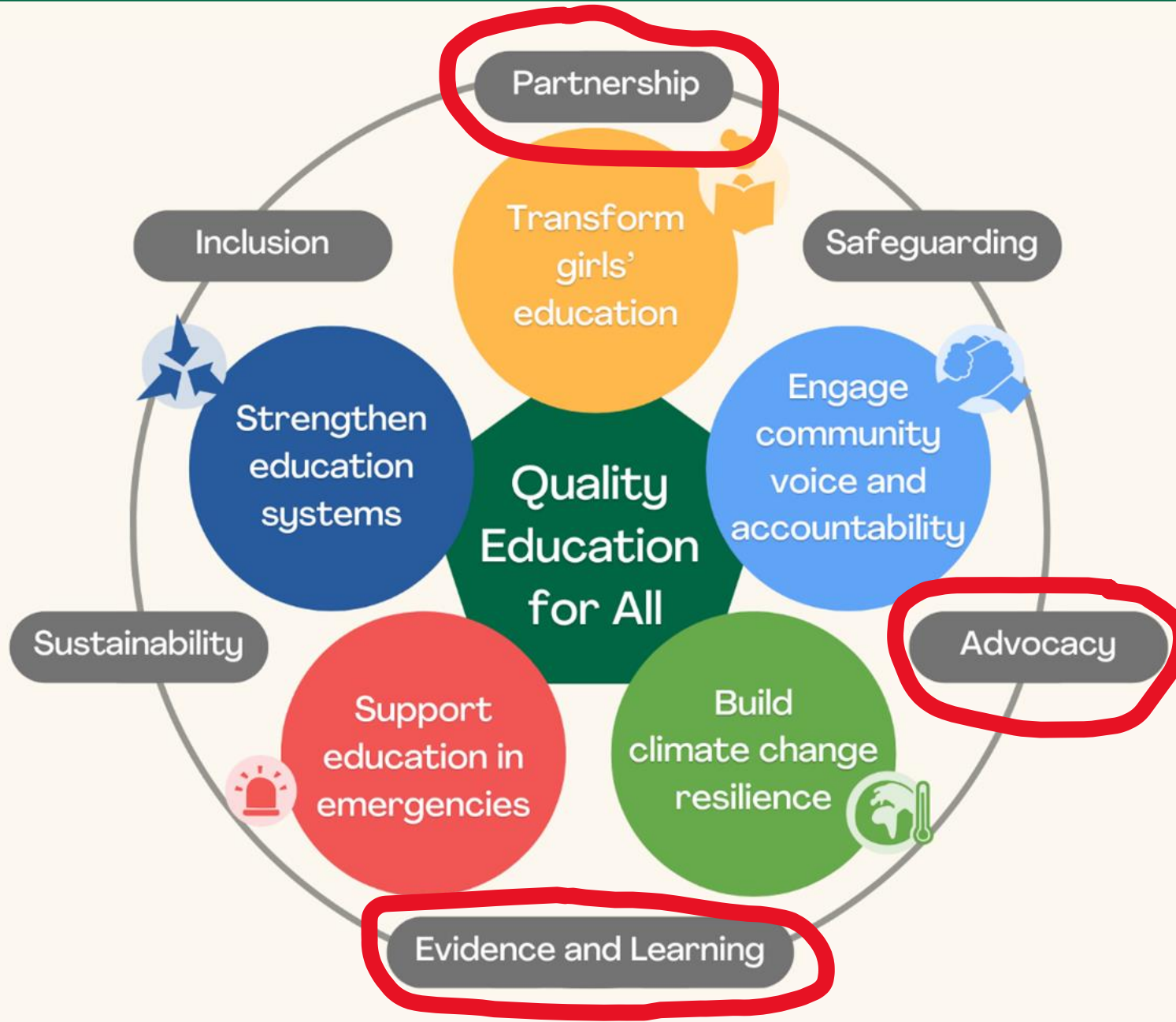
# Strengthening collaboration to achieve the SDGs

Dr Samantha Ross

University of Glasgow, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024



# Link Education International – Strategic Goals





# What are the benefits of research-informed development projects?

- Deeper understanding of context
- Understand complexities
  - intersectionality
  - who's missing
- Best approach
  - what are others' doing?
- Stakeholders
  - develop relationship



What is the role of academic evidence in programming, advocacy, and campaigning activities?



- Programming – know what works, where and why; external review
- Advocacy and Campaigning – validity; independent evaluation



# What does a successful partnership look like?

- Listening
- Curious
- Challenging
- Open
- Flexible
- Respectful – of knowledge, opinion, context
- Collaborative
- Equal



# How can the SDGs provide a useful framework for collaborative working?

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

### TARGET 17.2



- Commitment to 0.7%

### TARGET 17.6



- Knowledge sharing and equal access – South to South and peer learning

### TARGET 17.9



- Strengthen capacity of governments to deliver on SDGs

### TARGET 17.F



- Respect national leadership in the policy space

### TARGET 17.H



- Promote CSO partnerships

### TARGET 17.I



- Support availability of high quality disaggregated reliable data





**LINK**  
EDUCATION



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@LinkEducationUK



@LinkEducationInt

“Education promotes equality and lifts people out of poverty. It teaches children how to become good citizens. Education is not just for a privileged few, it is for everyone. It is a fundamental human right.”

- *Ban Ki-moon*

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**Yankho Mataya**  
**Country Director, Zambia**  
**WaterAid**

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**Professor Mo Hulme**  
**School of Social and Political Science**  
**University of Glasgow**

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Dr Neil Munro  
Stepping Up to the SDGs  
23 April 2024



# Role of research in improving programmes

- Serve a legitimating function
- Draw attention to the scale of a problem
- Map out the social terrain
- Identify the causes of a problem
- Identify solutions

# How partnerships support long-term impact

- Help all parties to access funding
- Help triangulate different sources of information
- Foster mutually beneficial exchanges of social capital
- Provide opportunities for human development





holder what problems have you faced?

## Risks of iNGOs and researchers working together

- Coloniality in international/iNGOs partnerships
- Complicity in generating “fungible” outcomes
- Inequity in distribution of programme benefits



that they were installed a long time ago, many of the

Scroll for details

# Who else should we be partnering with?

- Governments (principle of subsidiarity)
- Donors, recognizing their need for accountability
- Communities, recognizing formal and informal authority

NASA water stakeholder what problems have you fa

COUNTANT -  
COMMUNITY

WATER

all of my people around the Bung

water from this project and some use water s

0:19 / 13:02

Scroll for details 21

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**BREAK**

**SESSION WILL RESUME AT 11.40**

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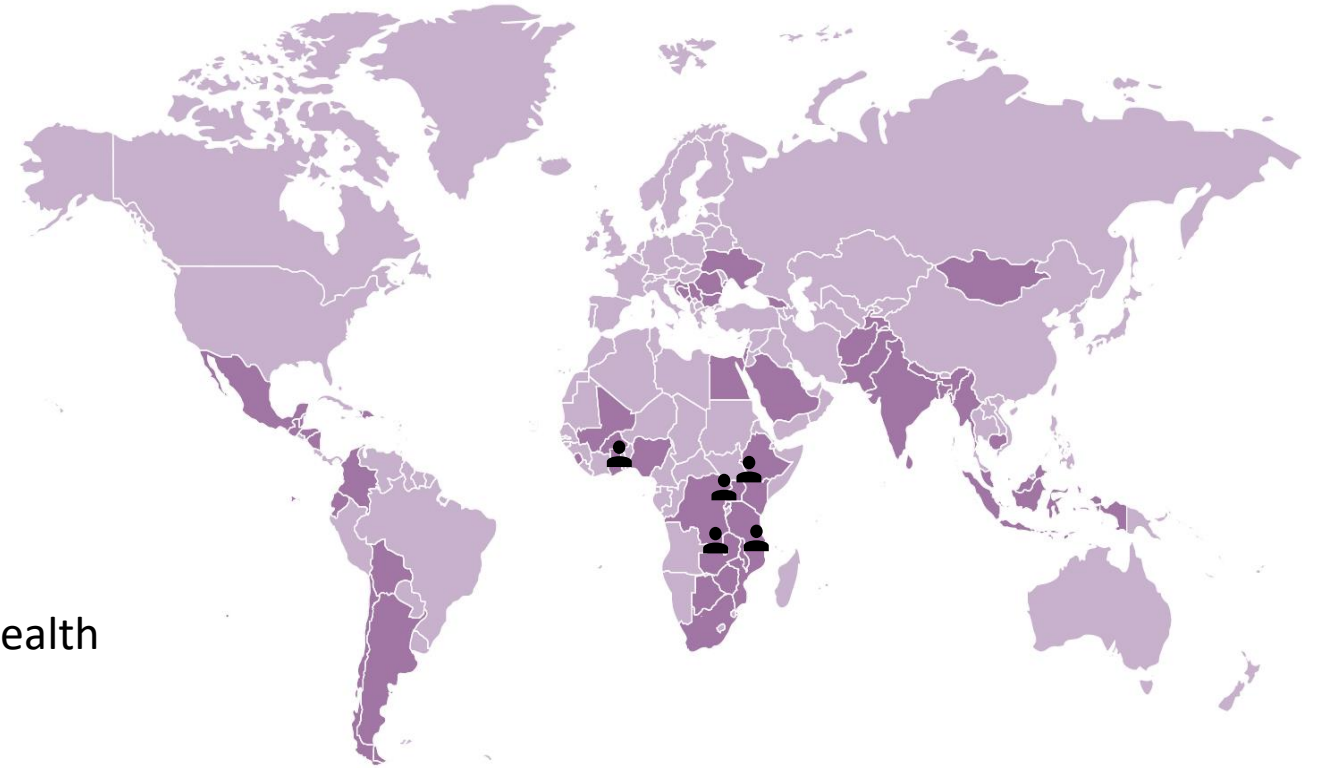
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# Maximising Enterprise Potential, to Deliver Extraordinary Impact

- Founded 1999
- Worked in 78 Countries
- Delivered +200,000 onsite consulting days
- Supported over 5,000 enterprises - +200 per year
- 6 offices – 5 in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Full time Team of 70
- Interim Team +100
- 25+ projects at any one time
- Sectors include energy, sustainable agriculture, health education
- Rural, urban and international enterprises



The  
**Ventures  
Lab**



**Challenges  
Group**



# Empowering Entrepreneurs: from Ideas to Impact

The Ventures Lab is brought to you by [Challenges Group](#), an international enterprise development organisation that delivers enterprising solutions to global challenges.



## Who is it for?

- Our aim is to identify individuals or teams leading the development of innovations that can be a 'game changer' in a specific sector or industry vertical in one, but ideally multiple, locations globally.
- We are targeting those with existing or ideated technical products/services/models with substantial impact potential, typically through:



University and college start-ups and spin-outs



Carve out programmes from international organisations



Charities restructuring into social enterprises



Individuals who are ambitious to start or grow their venture

# University start-ups & spin out support

## *Social Impact Spin Outs Programme*



### **Purpose**

- To provide a fully-integrated support runway for HE social innovation from academic staff, Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and students - to run parallel with traditional commercialisation pathways.

### **Funding**

- Core support offering funded by Scottish Government and delivered by Social Enterprise delivery partners which is supplemented by University specific spin-out funding.

### **Service Options**

- 1-2-many 'Introduction to Social Enterprise' session
- 1-2-1 enquiry session
  - Key information questionnaire
  - Memorandum of Understanding
- 1-2-1 / 1-2-group business development support
  - Pre-start-up; start-up; incubation and growth
- Intellectual Property audit
- Commercial Champion identification
- University commercialisation gate stage support
- Grant funding support
- Investment readiness and Social Finance support
- Legal structures appraisal & company formation
- Contractual support
- Branding support
- Business incubation and interim management





# Powering a Just Transition



= Access Energy

The Climate Change Legal  
Initiative

C<sup>2</sup>LI









# GENDER EQUALITY IN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS





# Maximising Enterprise Potential, to Deliver Extraordinary Impact

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# Natalie Slides

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# Funding research partnerships between academics and NGOs

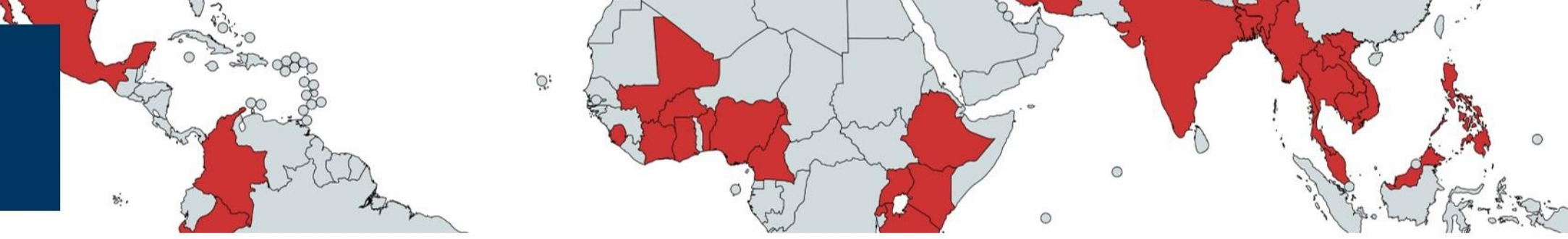
Mary Ryan  
International Development Research Manager  
Glasgow Centre for International Development and Research Services Directorate  
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## Trends in Funding

- Interdisciplinary
- Intersectoral
- Scalable
- Identification of contextual elements relevant to transferability
- Research excellence is necessary but not sufficient



## Intersectoral Partnerships

- Funders expect:
  - Equity
  - Inclusivity
  - Co-development
  - Strong governance
  - Impact-driven outcomes

## However...

- Funders often limit the funds that can be allocated to non-academic institutions – “in-kind” contributions are increasingly expected
- Expected outcomes can be very different across sectors
- Expected timelines for change can vary across partners





# Cultivating Resilient Partnerships

- Don't wait for a funding call – start conversations now
- Have difficult conversations early
- Identify key shared goals and mutually beneficial outcomes

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**Natalie Champion**  
Kevri

**Mary Ryan**  
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**School of Education**  
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