

Toward a shared vision for capacity development – key lessons

- *Capacity matters* – it remains a binding constraint on development and poverty reduction.
- *Governance matters* for successful and sustained capacity development.
- Capacity development requires an effective state and an engaged society.
- *Africans must take* the lead in capacity development and aid management.
- Capacity development should be a core area of country-led development strategies.
- *Unleashing, nurturing, and retaining existing capacity* is paramount, as is *better use of local talent and the diaspora*.
- Priority must be placed on *country capacity to build capacity*.
- Countries need a robust monitoring and evaluation system with a focus on results as an integral part of their medium-term plans, such as the poverty reduction strategy.
- External partners must *avoid capacity-depleting practices*, such as project implementation units and excessive use of external consultants.
- Capacity development support must be *adequately funded and more predictable*.
- Capacity development approaches need to be *adapted to diverse country contexts*.
- Achieving capacity outcomes requires *mutual accountability and independent monitoring*.