

# Bridging the Gap: African Forum for Research and Education in Health

Nelson Sewankambo  
Makerere University



# AFREhealth: The Genesis

- MEPI and NEPI grants would come to an end
- How to institutionalize and sustain achievements (knowledge, skills, attitudes, initiatives, networks)
- Sustainability: A concern for MEPI PI Council

# AFREhealth Launch



# Bridging the gap

- **Bridging the gap:** AFREhealth represents a new thinking and approach to address the Africa-wide health challenges through a concerted effort and working together between different health professions
- **Vision:** an African-designed, African owned, and African-led initiative that facilitates African institutions to initiate and maintain sustainable transformations in research and education for health services delivery and accelerate improvements in health on the continent



# Value proposition

- Development of an African inter-professional health movement promoting inter-professional approaches to education and research for service delivery
  - Complex health challenges cannot be solved by one professional alone
  - Minimize the tribal (silo) approach by health professions
  - Our Niche: Inter-professionalism/ Inter-professionality in (health) education and research for better service delivery and health improvements
- Transformation of health professions education research
- Meaningful engagement of stakeholders

# Centrality of Networking and partnerships Especially S-S and S-N

- Importance of in-country partnerships
- Importance of cross country partnerships
  - Partnerships within Africa (S-S) including TWGs
  - South-North partnerships
  - North-South partnerships

# Value Addition

- De-emphasize a silo approach in education of health professionals and research
- Complementarity and not competition with other health professional associations and initiatives
- Convening power and ability to bring together different health professions to jointly address key health challenges
- Advancing educational in Africa for improvements in quality quantity and equity in education, research and services
- Cross/ Mutual learning, networking, partnerships

# Opportunities

- AFREhealth – an opportunity for an African social movement  
African-designed, African-owned and African-led and causing improvement in health on the continent
- Constructive engagement, communicating this idea (advocacy) to all professions, funders and other stakeholders
- Need to identify a few issues that all professions can work on
- Documenting returns on investment in training researchers and any business opportunities that arise etc.
- Sustainability

