

The Africa Institute at Western University

Western University launched *The Africa Institute* to advance scholarship and policy development efforts related to African society, politics, economy, culture and health. In the process, its members are building sustainable partnerships with African citizens, institutions, governments, communities and NGOs to foster proactive initiatives that address some of the most pressing issues facing the continent – as identified by those experiencing them.



The Africa Institute works collaboratively with African partners to address some of the world's most pressing challenges and to help develop potential solutions.

What is The Africa Institute?

- Multi- and inter-disciplinary effort advancing teaching, research and policy development in Africa, including in such areas as waste management, health policy, gender studies, linguistics, refugee studies and transitional justice
- Works hand-in-hand with local institutions, governments and communities in Africa to serve as a new model for collaborative research and training
- Composed of 100 faculty researchers, 100 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and more than 150 undergraduate students working across the disciplinary spectrum
- Holds collaborative agreements with more than 20 African institutions and has nine research centres working on the continent
- Provides hands-on assistance for researchers applying for funding for training and research in the region, and internal start-up funds for new Institute projects

Established Programs and Relationships

- **Western Heads East:** has introduced probiotic yogurt as a means of addressing health issues related to HIV/AIDS, developed micro-finance initiatives and provides students interested in international development with hands-on service learning opportunities in East Africa
- **Rebuilding Health Care in Rwanda:** leads capacity-building efforts to educate nurses at the *Kigali Health Institute* and doctors at the *National University of Rwanda*, with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS and mental health
- **Ecosystem Health Africa Initiative:** examines interrelated factors affecting ecosystems and human health in Lake Naivasha, Kenya, which has grown from 19,000 citizens to 400,00 over the past two decades in large part because of the introduction of the commercial flower industry
- **Centre for Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction:** interdisciplinary centre of excellence for scholarship in the areas of transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction, including reconciliation, criminal accountability, post-colonial legacies, legal reconstruction, human rights and economic justice
- Additional ongoing multidisciplinary research initiatives in waste management, gender studies, health policy, linguistics and refugee studies
- Western will allocate one of its seven prestigious Trillium scholarships to an African graduate student working with an Africa Institute project

For more information, please visit: theafricainstitute.uwo.ca