

Report on Research project and visits to the University of Missouri, Colombia, June 22 – July. 15, 2018,

By, Prof Issy Ile and Prof Mulugeta Dinbabo,

Host: Prof Wilson Majee, Department of Health Sciences (DHS), University of Missouri,

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1. Overview

Prof Issy Ile and Prof Mulugeta Dinbabo [School of Government (SOG)/Institute for Social Development (ISD), at the University of the Western Cape] and Prof Wilson Majee, Department of Health Sciences (DHS) at the University of Missouri, USA – agreed to undertake a joint research project during the academic year 2018. Accordingly, a proposal on “*A comparative study in evaluating system efficiencies and service delivery of immigrant population in South Africa and USA*” jointly designed and submitted to the scientific partnership between the University of Missouri (UM) and the University of the Western Cape (UWC).

The research collaboration program between the two institutes aims to empirically evaluate the system efficiencies and service delivery to immigrant populations in South Africa and USA. This research project is multidisciplinary in nature, with Prof Ile being a policy and M & E (monitoring & evaluation) expert, Prof Dinbabo a development expert and Prof Majee a public Health expert. Thus, we were able harness required expertise, and discuss issues of common interest while jointly researching on this one-year project. In addition, the research is directly connected to the needs of and research interests of the two Universities. This partnership includes cooperation across academic staff, student activities and an exchange of expertise between the two universities.

2. Purpose

The primary purpose of this trip was to work with our collaborator, Prof Wilson Majee, Department of Health Sciences (DHS) at the University of Missouri: to collect field data from Missouri/Columbia and to promote the active collaboration of researchers in the two departments/universities and to assist two SOG/ISD scholars by providing a concentrated period of time during which they can engage in research to advance their careers in University of Missouri.

3. Major activities undertaken and results

3.1. Discussion on the technical aspects of the project (June 27 – July 11, 2018)

3.1.1. Online Training on Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI PROGRAM): An important activity prior to the actual data collection was training. Under University of Missouri’s quality assurance, all researchers (e.g., principal investigators, co-investigators, investigators, as well as other research personnel) who have involvement with human subjects need to demonstrate a basic knowledge of human research ethics, regulations, laws and local policies prior to initiating research with human subjects. At UM, such training is assured for all research personnel who are involved with human research subjects by completing an on-line program through Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI PROGRAM). Accordingly, we have successfully completed the online

training from June 11- 12, 2018. Community Representative (Mr Abdu Ahmed) who was recruited from the local communities (Missouri/Columbia), also successfully completed the CITI PROGRAM. We found this online process is very useful and perhaps could be investigated to determine if similar online programme could assist in speeding up the current ethical approval process at UWC.

3.1.2. Field piloting: Prior to the actual field data collection, the questionnaire was piloted in two stages. The first was a desktop pilot which involved core research team members especially research assistants administering the questionnaire to each other and identifying any gaps. The second step involved field piloting of the fine-tuned household questionnaire from the desktop piloting. Field piloting took place in Cape Town (May 15-20, 2018), where a total of 13 individuals were interviewed. Feedback from pilot study informed the fine-tuning of the household questionnaire along five main themes: respondent comprehension, sampling, coding and analysis, interviewer tasks performance and questionnaire formatting.

3.1.3. Research instruments: In designing the questionnaire, we took into consideration other existing research instruments used for similar assignments particularly within the USA and South African context. Surveys were conducted by the project team members (Prof Ile, Prof Mulugeta Dinbabo, and Prof Wilson Majee) as well as by Community Representative (Abdu Ahmed) who recruited respondents from the local communities where the research took place (Missouri/Columbia). The project team organized and provided further training to Mr Ahmed on the project and the questionnaire, thus capacitated him with the necessary data collection skills.

3.1.4. Self-administered household questionnaires: A total of 77 structured questionnaires were administered to purposely selected migrants in Missouri/Columbia. Given the objectives of the study, the questionnaire targeted adults (persons eighteen years and above). Specific information captured using the questionnaire included personal biodata, perceptions on service delivery by the government, awareness of policy issues and service delivery, system efficiencies and challenges encountered in accessing the services. In addition, information on respondents' suggestions and recommendations about the service delivery were captured.

3.1.5. Technical project team meetings: As part of project implementation strategies, various project meetings were held with technical team members (Prof Ile, Prof Mulugeta Dinbabo, and Prof Wilson Majee). An important output from these meetings was that they provided the platform to regularly discuss and review the set of research instruments and tools to be used for the research. Regular meetings have been also used to establish contacts with some departments and to gain their input into discussions.

3.2. Additional noteworthy activities (meetings/networking)

3.2.1. Prof. Lise Saffran, Director, MU MPH Program, (Meeting held on July 9th, 2018). We met with Prof Saffran and we explored the possibility of a joint module at Masters Level (key themes around global health, policy & development). The proposal for the module is being refined and we will both explore administrative means within both universities to get the necessary approval, as this module will leverage expertise from both institutions and greatly enrich the insights of our students. While at the meeting, we also explored making further connections for both UWC and UM faculty. To this end, we initiated connections for the pharmacy department at UWC (Prof Obikeze) and possibly Prof. Roger Sommi at UMKC.

3.2.2. Prof Lael Keiser, Professor, Director of the Truman School of Public Affair and Irma Arteaga (Meeting held on the 12th of July 2018). We met with Prof. keiser and Irma at the Truman

school. We had a very productive meeting and during the discussions, Prof. Keiser indicated that there were two members of her faculty that were interested in migration, and could collaborate with us on this project or any other project. We embraced the idea and suggested, that we consider using this current project as pilot, with a view of seeking a bigger grant from an external funder (some of the foundations which the Truman School already has links with) and broadening the project to include a much bigger research team across both institutions. Furthermore, we explored the idea of strengthening the relationship between the School of Government, UWC and the Truman School through joint PhD supervision, thesis examination and participating as guest lecturers across each other's Masters programme with the aid of technology (specifically zoom).

3.2.3. Prof Chris Fulcher, Director of the Center for Applied Research and Environmental Systems (CARES). Meeting was carried out with Prof Fulcher who serves as the Director of the Center for Applied Research and Environmental Systems (CARES) at the University of Missouri. Prof Fulcher and his team integrate GIS, data visualization, community engagement tools and Internet accessibility to better serve vulnerable and underserved populations. These web-based technologies help organizations and policy makers make more informed decisions about access, equity, and allocation of resources. Prof. Fulcher's systems-based approach to decision making enables public and nonprofit sector organizations to effectively address social, economic, environmental, and public health issues using unique collaborative management systems such as Community Commons. Specifically, discussion has been made about the travel arrangement by Prof. Fulcher to Cape town next year in April-May to meet with UWC faculty to present on our current technologies and conduct a 2-day workshop. It has been also proposed to work with UWC faculty on a joint proposal to further establish our working relationship.

3.2.4. Prof Mansoo Yu, University of Missouri (Meeting held on July 2, 2018): We met with Prof Yu who serves as Doctoral Program Director. As Doctoral Program Director, he strives to integrate feedback from students and faculty to create a program that prepares students for rigorous research while also preparing them for teaching and other professional responsibilities after graduation. He has been working closely with the Curriculum Committee to determine new approaches and content to link theory to research design, to include teaching experiences within the program, and to provide professional development that will better prepare and position students for successful job placement. He indicated his willingness to contribute to our Monitoring and Evaluation module from a statistical perspective.

3.2.5. Refugee and Immigration Services, Missouri, Columbia: (June 28-July 15, 2018): Frequent meetings and discussions have been carried out with the staff members of the Refugee & Immigration Services (RIS). The organization provides a safe and hopeful refuge for those forced to flee their homelands. Over the years, they have welcomed people from countries in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America regardless of their color or creed. This same welcome has been extended to non-refugee immigrants seeking legal status and family reunification. The Refugee and Immigration Services was one of the data collection site in Missouri, Columbia.

3.2.6. Scalabrini Center NYC (June 25-26, 2018): Meetings have been made with selected migration officers and information has been gathered at the Scalabrini Center NYC. The Center was formally established by the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles, Scalabrinians, a community of Catholic priests, nuns and lay people dedicated to serving migrants and refugees throughout the world. The Scalabrini Center NYC is devoted to support international and safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants, refugees and newcomers.

3.2.7. Stony Brook University (SUNY), June 26, 2018: We met with Prof. Shimelis Gulema, who specialize on the human mobility and Africana Studies; specializing in modern and contemporary Africa; the African Diaspora, urbanization (urban space and its production, youth, urban cultural production, rural-urban ties), modernity/modernization, migration, national and transnational identities and ideologies (local, national, and diasporic), political economy, governance, development, and the politics of knowledge production. This was backdrop that if we are going to attract a larger grant externally for our factuality to be involved in this UWC/UM project, collaborating with other experts will strengthen our chances of a competitive grants.

4. Next activity plan and implementation schedule (Sep 2018 to November 30, 2018)

| Major activities | Responsible body |
|---|---------------------------|
| • Undertake regular project team communication | Project Team |
| • Finalize data collection in Cape Town | Project Team |
| • Finalise data analysis | Project Team |
| • Participate in the Continental level Conference in September 18 -21, 2018 (Addis Ababa) | Prof Ile and Prof Dinbabo |
| • Journal article publication | Project Team |

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, considering the achievements thus far, we are convinced that the research trip to UM has been positive overall. The project also appears to have been successful in relation to its plan and major achievements enabling a range of research interventions which targeted evaluating system efficiencies and service delivery of immigrant population in South Africa and USA. Our engagement with the Prof Wilson Majee, Department of Health Sciences (DHS), University of Missouri, is one of the key elements for achieving the project goals. There is clear evidence that at the institutional level partnerships with different stakeholders is key for the successful implementation of the project. We also believe that the use of stakeholder’s level of power, plays a key part in institutional alignment of interest in the policy/programme.

Lastly, we want to thank UM/UWC, fort the opportunity afforded us to execute this project and special thanks to Prof Rodney Uphoff for all his support and the UWC international office (Ms Hilda Wilson and Director Umesh Bawa).

Signed



Prof I. U. Ile



Prof MF Dinbabo

August 28, 2018

Annex-3: Research Team Members

Prof Ile (Principal Investigator)

Isioma Uregu Ile is presently a Full Professor at the School of Government, University of the Western Cape. She holds a PhD in Public Affairs from the University of Pretoria. Her experience in academia is about 20 years. At her current employ, she teaches across all the academic programmes in Public Administration, actively participates in the design, delivery and evaluation of various School offerings including academic and non-academic public service training initiatives. With regard to research, she supervises large numbers of post graduate students across the School of Government's post graduate's programmes, is a member of various research teams, has presented several papers in various conferences locally and internationally, widely published in accredited Public Administration journals and has written five books. She is currently part of the editorial team of the African Journal of Public Affairs. Her research focus are largely around public policy implementation and evaluation. She is a Member of the American society for Public Administration (ASPA) and a Member of the South African Association for Public and Administration & Management (SAAPAM). Her past international experience includes collaborative research at the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs University of Missouri, USA and teaching at the Ruhr-Universitat, Bochum, Germany.

Prof. Mulugeta F. Dinbabo (Co-Investigator)

Mulugeta Dinbabo obtained his Doctoral Degree in Development Studies from the University of the Western Cape. He also has two MA degrees in Development Management and Development Studies, from the Ruhr University Germany and University of the Western Cape, South Africa, respectively. He has more than 12 years of practical experience of working in the field of development as well as teaching courses on Research Methods, and Development Management. He has a sound knowledge of the fields of international migration, social and economic development, microsimulation modelling and Evidence-based policymaking (EBP) approaches. He also has a practical experience on strategic planning, project/programme management, monitoring & evaluation, capacity building and advocacy in Africa and other parts of the world. He has a demonstrated expertise and ability for independent use of computer packages and statistical software (SPSS, ATLAS-ti.). At the moment, Dr Dinbabo is the Chief Editor of the African Human Mobility Review (AHMR) an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed on-line journal created to encourage and facilitate the study of all aspects (socio-economic, political, legislative and developmental) of human mobility in Africa.

Prof Wilson Majee, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A

Profg Majee (Co-Investigator) is an Assistant Professor of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Missouri. Prior to this, he worked as a Community Development Specialist for MU Extension. Dr. Majee's primary research focus is on community leadership development in the context of empowering and engaging local residents in resource-limited communities in improving their health and well-being. He has extensive experience and expertise conducting in-depth interviews, focus groups, and subsequent qualitative analysis. As the USA collaborator on the study, Dr. Majee will be primarily responsible for ensuring that research is approved by the University of Missouri IRB, and conducted within IRB guidelines (i.e. study personnel follow the IRB-approved protocol, including the recruitment and consent procedures described in the protocol summary) and making preparation for fieldwork in St. Louis. Throughout the study, Dr. Majee will assist with collecting and analyzing data and ensuring that findings are disseminated to a broader audience through conference presentations, article publications, and webinars.