Building capacity

INDEPTH-Wits partnership
INDEPTH-WITS Partnership

- Partnership from 2006
- Started MSc in Population Based Field-Epidemiology
Impact of INDEPTH-Wits training to-date: 2011

• Publication output – 17 alumni produced 53 publications, 8 first author, all indexed

• Resource for Africa as *all* students go “home”

• Progression to PhD studies 5/35 (12%)

• Progressive investment by Wits University – 5 new posts since 2005 sustainability
Rationale for new programme in Research Data Management

• Limited skills in advanced research database management

• Need to increase and strengthen this capacity: expressed need by students and HDSS leaders

• Research data managers should be part of the scientific process

• Need for a career pathway in order to retain staff in research centers
New programme

• Masters degree in Research Data Management
• Accreditation with Wits University 2012/23
• Short course piloted in 2013
  – Longitudinal Data and Event History Analysis
  – 19 participants
• Degree programme offered from 2014
• Cost effective as builds on previous knowledge
• Acknowledges scarce skills while emphasising interdisciplinarity
• Not just “techies” but people who are research-oriented data managers
• Longer-term aim to create a pipeline for PhDs and post-docs
Structure of degree

• 18 month programme
• Coursework in year 1
  – 16 courses
• 5 month field attachment at an affiliated INDEPTH Centre
  – Undertake research report
Courses offered

• Research Ethics
• Research Protocol Development
• Introduction to Biostatistics in Computing
• Epidemiology for Health Researchers I
• Biostatistics for Health Researchers I
• Longitudinal data and event history analysis
• Principles and Operations of Relational Databases I
• Introduction to data management systems, structures and models
• Programming I
• Programming II
• Principles and Operations of Relational Databases II
• Data collection and capture
• Data processing, distribution and archiving I
• Data processing, distribution and archiving II
• Computing infrastructure for data managers
• Research report
Status of applications and staff

• Appointed a senior lecturer to run course
  – PhD in Computer Science
• 9 applicants to-date (not all INDEPTHT)
  – need 10 students to run programme
• Origin of applicants
  – 3 Ghana
  – 3 South Africa
  – 1 Namibia
  – 1 Burkina Faso
  – 1 Tanzania
Curriculum Development Workshop 2013