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**Promoting critical knowledge, skills and qualifications for  
sustainable development in Africa: How to design and  
implement an effective response  
through education and training systems**

### **Sub-theme 3**

**Lifelong acquisition of scientific and  
technological knowledge and skills  
for Africa's sustainable development  
in a globalized world**

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## **Impact of Recent Reforms in Science and Technology in Kenya: the case of Public Research Funding**

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*By Mr. James KIBURI  
Mr. David NGIGI  
Dr. Mwangi GITHIRU*

### **ABSTRACT**

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# 1 ABSTRACT

1. Public funding for R&D can both engender and stimulate the training needed to support the lifelong learning crucial for this social transformation. In this study, we start with a general evaluation of the reforms that have taken place in the ST&I sector in Kenya since 2003. We then focus on reforms and impacts of Public Research Funding (PRF) on R&D, looking at the impact of the recent reforms in PRF through the following three questions: (i) what is the status quo of the research funding landscape in Kenya; (ii) what is the impact of projects funded by public research funds; and, (iii) does public funding increase the total spending on research or merely displaces funding from other sources? First, an analysis of a 2009 study done under the auspices of the African Science Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) in Kenya revealed three key findings: females are underrepresented in the ST&I sector in Kenya; Government agencies spend the highest share of their funds on research through funding other institutions; and most institutions do not allocate their own funds for research. Second, looking at Kenya Government's funding on research (Public Research Funding-PRF), 75% of the projects funded under the current PRF scheme performed well or fairly, indicating that the immediate outputs (e.g., published collaborative papers and patents registered) are often realized. In contrast, most of the projects that missed out on PRF were never undertaken (85%) while 9% obtained alternative funding and 6% were downscaled to student thesis projects. In sum, these data highlight the crucial role of Government funding in promoting critical local research that would otherwise stand little chance of being executed. Overall, we provide a snapshot of the status and shape of the research arena in Kenya, and hope that this will help in guiding the government on how it could spend its research money.