

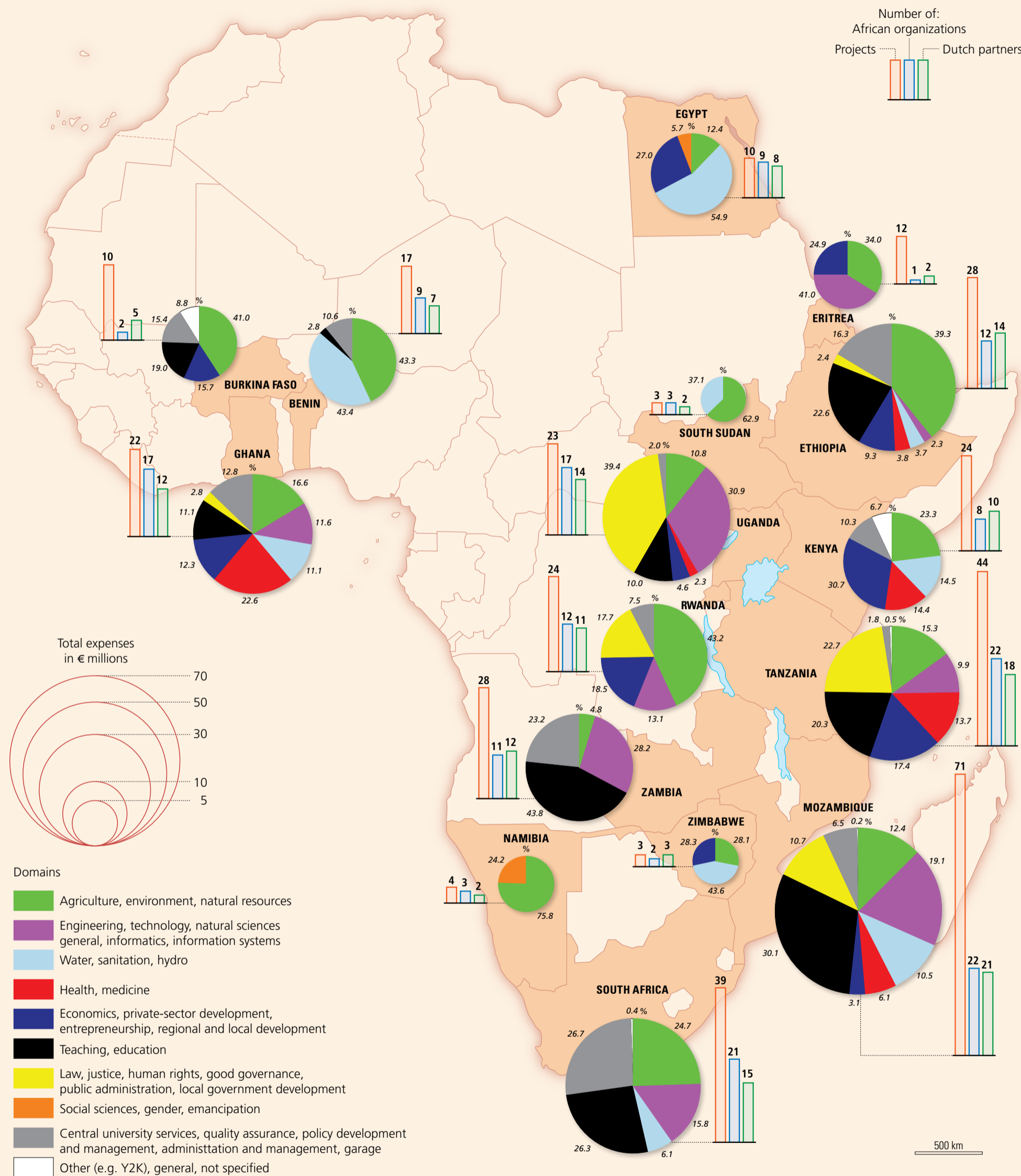


African
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Africa 2014 - African Studies Centre

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Dutch cooperation programmes to strengthen post-secondary education and training in Africa (1996-2013)



The Dutch government has been supporting higher education in developing countries through cooperation between Dutch higher education and training institutes and partner organizations in the developing countries since the late 1960s.

Various programmes have been implemented but the aim in all of them has been to build and strengthen the education and training capacity of organizations/institutes and to promote human capabilities in developing countries through collaboration with Dutch (knowledge) organizations.

Cooperation in the earlier programmes was restricted to universities and institutes of international education in the Netherlands and their counterparts in developing countries. Gradually, participation on the Dutch side was broadened to include universities of applied sciences and private training and consultancy firms as well.

And in developing countries, ministries, national agencies and NGOs were also able

to be partners. Over the years, the partner countries have changed as a result of Dutch government policies, as have some of the programme priorities. Since the launch of the NPT programme in 2002, projects have been expected to support the aims of Dutch bilateral cooperation programmes in partner countries. Gender equality and a clear link between education and the labour market have to be demonstrated in all projects.

The graph presented here is based on the programmes implemented in Africa between 1996 and 2013. It shows the funding spent in each partner country (in €million) and per sector (as % of the total country expenses) and also the number of projects that have been undertaken in each country, the number of African organizations and the Dutch partners (organizations/consortia) involved.



Brief description of the programmes

MHO Joint Financing Programme for Cooperation in Higher Education; 1996 - 2004

The aim of this cooperative programme was to strengthen a limited number of universities (12) in partner countries through broad linkages with Dutch partner institutions (mainly universities). Each linkage consisted of a number of projects aimed at strengthening the academic, administrative and managerial capacities and facilities of the institutions in the South. The joint funding arrangements and long-term commitment were expected to also result in lasting academic partnerships. The programme was officially launched in 1993 and project implementation began in 1996.

SPP SAIL Projects Programme; 1996 - 2004

SPP aimed to contribute to the broad sustainable development, improvement and strengthening of institutions and organizations in developing countries engaged or involved in higher education (institutional development). It also aimed to contribute to an increase in the quality and quantity of educated professionals (human resource development). Expertise was mobilized from selected institutions for international education (IE institutions) in the Netherlands.

HOB Programme for Cooperation between Dutch Universities of Applied Sciences and Education Institutions in Developing Countries for the Benefit of Primary Education; 1996 - 2004

The HOB programme assisted institutions in developing countries responsible for training teachers and educating management staff and for developing primary education curricula. The education faculties and teacher-training colleges at five Dutch universities of applied sciences (hogescholen) participated in this programme.

NPT The Netherlands Programme for Institutional Strengthening of Post-secondary Education and Training Capacity; 2002 - 2008

NICHE The Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education; 2008 - present

The NPT and NICHE programmes both aim to strengthen post-secondary education training capacity relevant to the needs and priorities of selected partner countries and to support Dutch development objectives. Project activities in the NPT programme had to be relevant to the sectors and themes targeted by the Dutch bilateral support given to the countries in question. The NICHE programme has to support capacity strengthening in the four priority areas of Dutch development cooperation: food security, water, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and security and the rule of law. The programmes have supported organizations in the South that play an important role in the development of post-secondary education and training capacity. These include institutes for post-secondary education, government ministries, national commissions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

NPT was implemented in 14 countries. The NICHE list of partner countries included 23 countries, but this currently stands at 15 (2014).

Both NPT and NICHE aim to spend at least 50% of their funds on projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. At least 35% of NICHE funds are intended to benefit food security, which is another priority area.

Additional information on the NPT and NICHE programmes, projects and participating organizations can be found at www.nuffic.nl/npt and www.nuffic.nl/niche. For specific questions please contact niche@nuffic.nl.

The African Studies Centre (ASC)

The ASC in Leiden, founded in 1947, is the only research institute in the Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa. Its primary aims are to undertake scientific research on Africa in the social sciences and humanities and to promote a better understanding of African societies. It is an independent institute but maintains close links with Leiden University, as part of LeidenGlobal. The ASC's work is not only of importance to researchers but also to policymakers, journalists, NGOs, businesses and other organizations.

Research The ASC's research programme lasts for a period of five years. Projects are multidisciplinary, empirical in nature and are carried out in cooperation with African colleagues and institutions by the Centre's researchers and PhD and Research Masters students.

Library The ASC's Library, Documentation and Information Department has the most extensive and specialized collection on Africa in the Netherlands in the fields of the social sciences (including law and economics) and the humanities. The library, which is open to the general public, has more than 80,000 books, 1500 documentaries and feature films from and about Africa, and subscribes to nearly 750 periodicals. *African Studies Abstracts Online* offers some 10,000 abstracts and journal articles and web dossiers provide background information on specific topical events and themes.

Publications ASC researchers publish in many different journals and with well-known publishing houses. The Centre also has five publication series of its own:

- Africa Yearbook
- Afrika-Studiecentrum Series
- African Dynamics
- African Studies Collection
- and ASC Infosheets

Seminars Regular seminars are held at the ASC on Thursday afternoons on a wide range of topics. These are given by prominent local and international Africanists and are open to the general public.

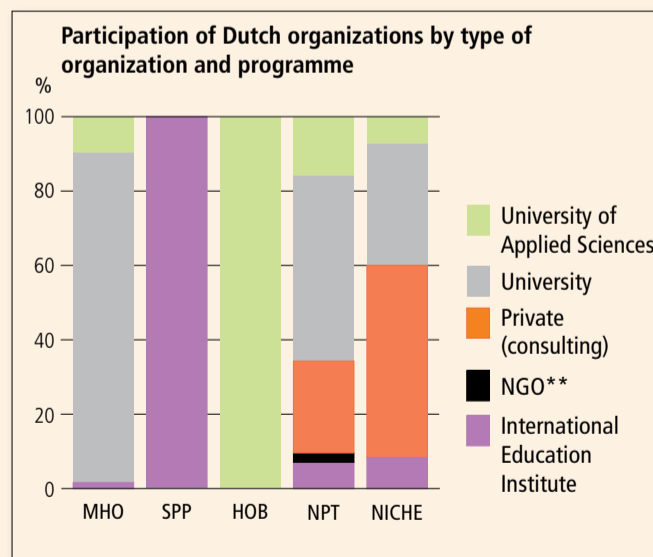
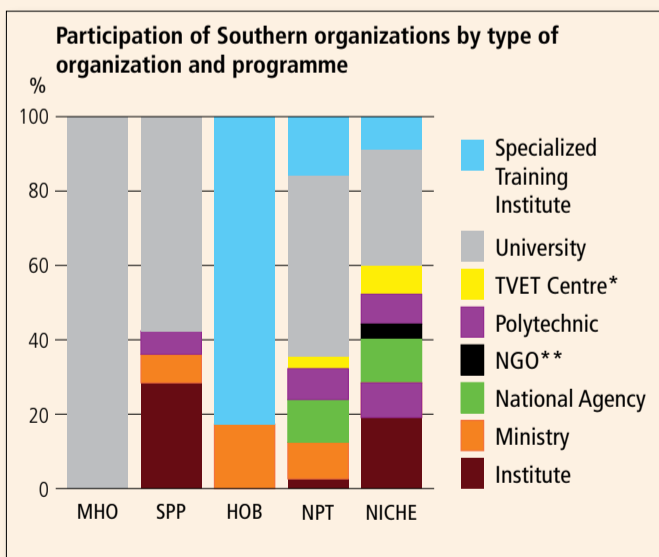
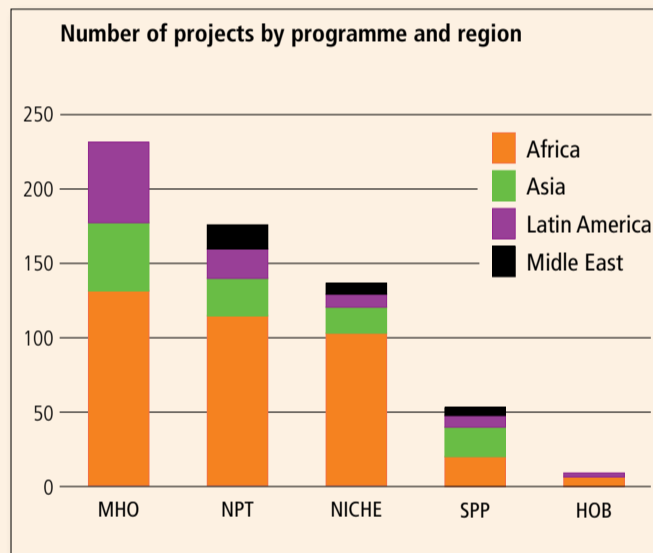
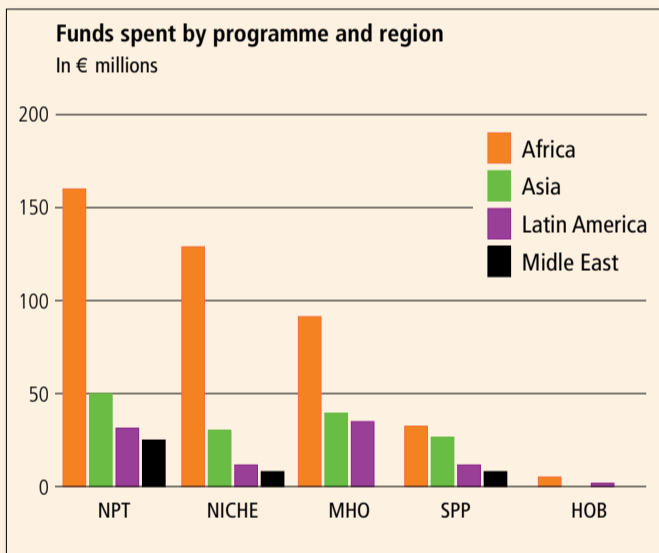
Visiting Fellows Eight African academics are invited to Leiden every year on three-month fellowships to promote an effective academic dialogue between Africa and the North. These scholars use their stay in Leiden for data analysis and writing.

Research Masters in African Studies The ASC offers a two-year Research Masters in African Studies in cooperation with Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. About 60% of the students on this course come from outside the Netherlands.

Thesis Award A prize is awarded annually for the best Masters thesis on Sub-Saharan Africa by a student at a university in the Netherlands or in Africa. The winning thesis is published in the African Studies Collection series.

ASC Community The ASC Community includes fellows, affiliates and associates of the Centre, and people with a professional interest in Africa who are working in business, policymaking, NGOs and in media circles. We would like to welcome you as a partner in the ASC Community!

<http://www.ascleiden.nl/?q=content/asc-community>.



* Technical Vocational Education & Training ** Non-governmental Organization



Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic)

The Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic) is an independent foundation that was founded in 1952 with the mission to foster international cooperation in higher education in the broadest sense. Special attention is given to development cooperation. Nuffic coordinates and administers programmes that contribute to international cooperation in higher education and promotes the internationalization of education and programmes that provide fellowships to students and professionals from developing countries so they can attend education and training programmes in the Netherlands.

Nuffic also disseminates information about international cooperation in higher education and the possibilities for studying in the Netherlands and other countries to educational institutions at home and abroad, as well as to individuals. Nuffic compares curricula and assesses the value of foreign degrees in comparison with the Dutch system. See www.nuffic.nl

African Studies Centre
Pieter la Court Building
Wassenaarseweg 52
Postbus 9555
2300 RB Leiden
T: +31 71 527 3372
E: asc@ascleiden.nl
www.ascleiden.nl
www.facebook.com/ASCLeiden
www.twitter.com/ASCLeiden