ETATMBA Update on researcher training (Malawi)

September 2012

A research manual has been produced and this explains how the data are to be collected. It fully explains how and when data are to be collected and the conduct of the researchers whilst doing this. It includes how the researchers approach and obtain informed consent from participants, how interviews are to be conducted (including topic guides), how data are to be stored, analysed and monitored.

During February David Ellard (DE), from Warwick, visited Malawi and during this visit met up with the research associate, Wanangwa Chimwaza (WC), who is working on the project. Her role is to gather the qualitative (interview data) and to help oversee the collection of the quantitative data.

During the visit DE carried out training with WC covering all topics in the research manual. Training included:

* Conduct within the project;
* Project related forms and materials (e.g. consent forms, information sheets & reporting forms);
* Research ethics and obtaining informed consent;
* Conducting interviews (including going over topic guides).

In addition, following the training, DE accompanied WC to a number of districts and monitored her carrying out some interviews.

A large part of WCs research training will come from a project funded PhD which she is applying for. We were able to meet with a local academic at the College of Medicine (Malawi) who is happy to act as her local supervisor. Her application is in progress but the process seems very slow in Malawi. She will have local and distance support during this PhD and will be offered the chance to visit the UK (Warwick) in the coming year to carry out some additional research training (modules).