

Presentation by Karen Peachey

www.thet.org.uk

International Director, The Tropical Health
and Education Trust.

karen@thet.org

THET

1 Wimpole Street

London

W1G 0AE

020 7290 3885

Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET)

- Founded in 1988 by Prof. Eldryd Parry
- Our mission is to help improve the basic health services in developing countries, building long term capacity through training and support
- We broker and support Links between UK health institutions and counterparts in developing countries
- We have strategic programmes, drawing on Links, in Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somaliland

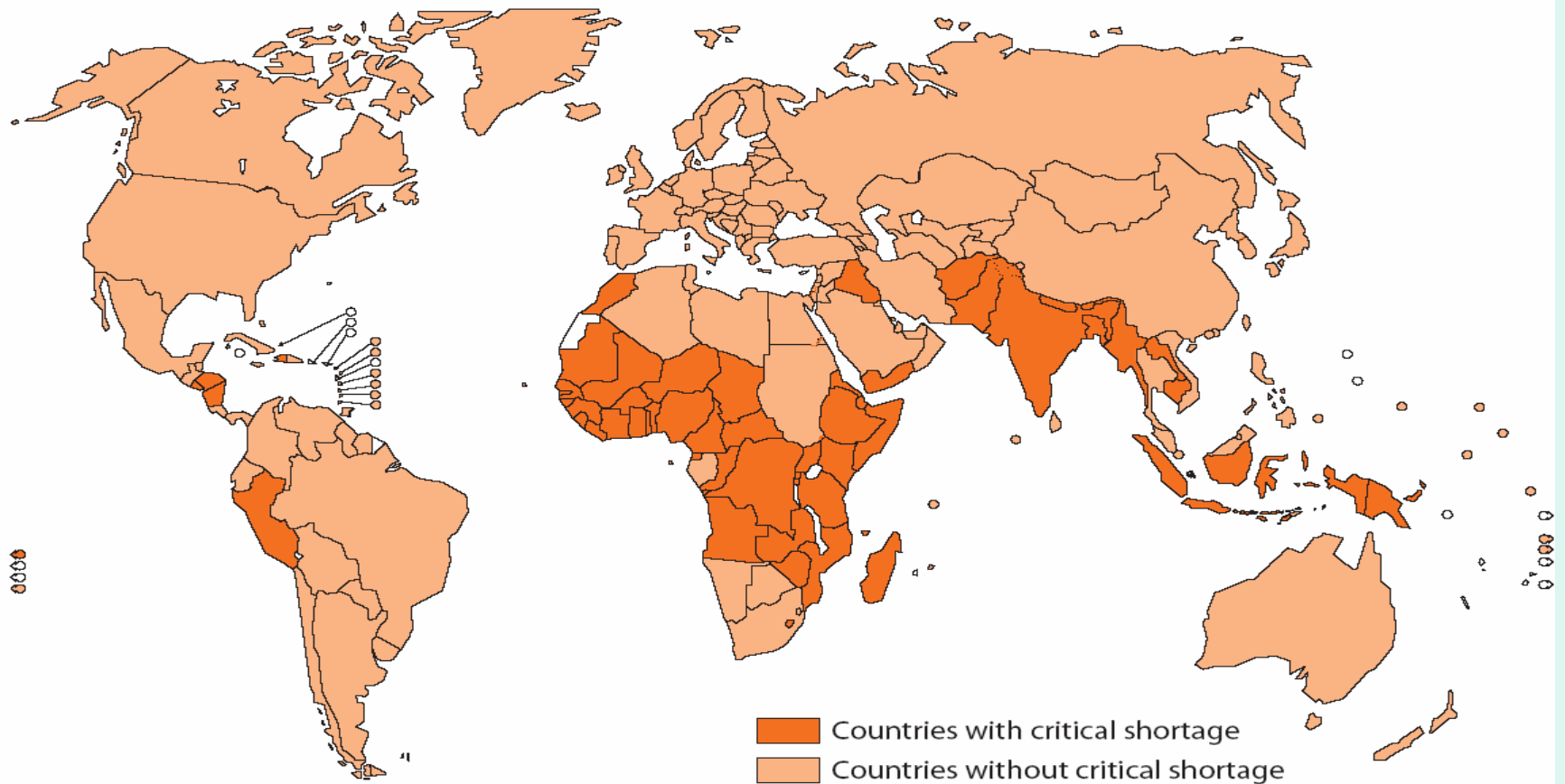
Health in Africa

Africa has

- Significant burden of global burden of diseases
- Relatively small% of health workers
- small% of world health expenditure

Priority countries

Countries with a critical shortage of health service providers (doctors, nurses and midwives)



Data source: World Health Organization. Global Atlas of the Health Workforce (<http://www.who.int/globalatlas/default.asp>).

Some of the issues ...

- Access to health care limited – cost; distance; availability
- Reaching the poor
- Lack of basic and post basic training
- Remuneration for health workers
- Brain drain - internal and external

What are Health Links?

- Partnerships that help strengthen capacity for service, teaching and (sometimes) research.
- Institutional arrangements (supported by Board/CEO at both ends) not just individual enthusiasm
- Inter-disciplinary
- Enduring – not dependent on donor fashions

The Scope of Links

- 69 Links registered with THET inc:
 - New Links e.g. IOW
 - Established Links e.g. KCH–Somaliland; Nottingham-Jimma
 - 5 with Ghana, 3 Nigeria, 3 Sierra Leone, 2 Gambia ...
- The Links do many things - most emphasise training

What Links Do

- Pre & post graduate training – Drs; nurses; managers; lab technicians; mid-level health workers
- Training the trainers
- Input to curricula development
- Gap filling lectures
- Systems strengthening
- Support new service development
- Respond to changing needs

Benefits of Links - Ghana

- Capacity building, strengthening systems and processes
- Empower front line health workers
- Long-term relationships/sustainable
- Supportive/empowering
- Flexible – can respond to changing needs

Benefits of Links - UK

- Benefits to NHS – individual & corporate
- Personal/professional development:
 - skills
 - knowledge
 - morale
- North-South solidarity
- Corporate social responsibility

How THET can Help

- THET Links Manual, website, resource materials, workshops and e-bulletin
- Seedcorn grants/other opportunities
- Examples of good practice – the work; organisation of the Link; funding etc
- THET Links team, including specialist advisors – paediatric, nursing, PGME, University, surgery etc
- Coordinators for Malawi, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia and Somaliland.

Making a Good Link

– Some Key Principles

- **Institutional not individual**
- **Consult, listen & follow the priorities of overseas partners**
- **Don't prescribe solutions, support, don't manage**
- **Avoid supply side driving!**
- **Be integrated not isolated - work within & support health system**
- **Small steps and don't expect rapid change**
- **Think long-term**
- **Evaluate what you do**
- **Don't reinvent the wheel**
- **THANK YOU.**