



Linked Strengthening MNCH Research Training in Kenya

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The Linked- Strengthening Maternal, Newborn & Child Health Research Training in Kenya is an award linked to the programmatic grant of the Partnership for Innovative Medical Education in Kenya (PRIME Kenya). The overarching aim of this Linked Award is to establish a Collaborative Center of Excellence in Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health (MNCH) at the University of Nairobi (UON) which will build research capacity and provide outstanding training in implementation science and applied research, health metrics and evaluation, and program leadership relevant to achieving Kenya's health development goals.

This grant which is part of the NIH funded Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) has spearheaded training in implementation science as it relates to MNCH and launched MNCH mentored projects in over six Ministry of Health hospitals across the country. The University of Nairobi partnered with the University of Washington (UW) in the Linked MNCH grant and now looks to consolidate the gains from this projects through establishing long-term institutional frameworks for collaboration in MNCH.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

AIM 1: Build implementation science capacity in MNCH that translates into policy and practice:

The project has designed 3 training short-term, modules targeting post-graduates in CHS and health workers from PRIME- K Decentralized sites.

Activities

We provide 3 trainings under this objective as follows:

Implementation Science: The implementation science is a 5-day modular course that provides an overview of the principles of translating research findings into policy and practice

Program Management: This 5-day modular course covers key aspects of program management. The training introduces the basic concepts of project planning, implementation, evaluation and closure

Integrated MNCH: This is 6-day modular course that provides an overview of the state MNCH. It covers key aspects of policy framework and strategic planning for MNCH services in Kenya.

AIM 2: Launch implementation science research that strengthens MNCH at community level: To promote implementation science research that strengthens MNCH efforts at the community level in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, we provide opportunities for teams of medical faculty and/or post-graduates from at least two different disciplines to compete for MNCH projects based at decentralized clinical training sites.

So far all 36 postgraduates in Y1 completed their studies. 15 manuscripts have been submitted to journals, and 6 preparing manuscript. Findings have also been disseminated in several and international forums.

For Y2 among the 13 post graduate students selected, 1 has completed report writing, 6 are analysing, 1 is collecting data, 4 are doing second correction from ERC and 1 is yet to receive ethical approval.



We have received a total of 23 applications for Y3.

AIM 3: Enhance MNCH leadership capacity to harness emerging implementation science strengths:

This objective targets to enhance MNCH program leadership capacity and build bridges between the UON and the Kenya Ministries of Health (MOH) programs in MNCH.

Activities

Afya Bora Consortium Fellowship

We so far sponsored 3 health workers to participate in University of Washington Afya Bora Consortium fellowship program.

Pronto Training

PRONTO is an adaptable obstetric and neonatal emergency simulation team training programme that uses a high-fidelity and low-technology birth simulation. The two- module curriculum is designed specifically to strengthen inter-professional teams within team's actual clinical setting. This training programme is one of the outcomes of long lasting collaboration between the university of Nairobi and The University of Washington.

We have conducted 4 training so far at CHS, Kenyatta National Hospital, Pumwani Maternity Hospital, Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital and Mbagathi District Hospital. Apart from training midwives and several obstetricians/gynecologists, these trainings have created a pool of Trainers of Trainers from local hospitals that will ensure sustainability of the training.

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