CEHLS Planning Meeting
The Public Health program

July 29, 2013

University of Liberia
Conference Room, Administration Building
9:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Seeking to address the Public Health needs of Liberia via CEHLS

“Health research continues to clarify the importance of social and environmental determinants of health and the impact of primary prevention”

Institute of Medicine of the American National Academies

“Community based interventions are essential if the achievement of millennium development goals (MDGs) to reduce maternal mortality by 75% and child mortality by over 65% are to be achieved by 2015”.

(USAID, KENYA COMMUNITY MIDWIFERY PROJECT,)

Red-light Market
The framework of the CEHLS Project in Liberia

USAID/HED

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

INTEGRATING PUBLIC HEALTH KNOWLEDGE IN THE REVISED LIFE SCIENCE CURRICULUM AT UL
CREATING A SOPHOMORE LEVEL PUBLIC HEALTH COURSE AT UL

MOHSW

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS/WORCESTER

DEVELOPING PUBLIC HEALTH TECHNICIAN COMMUNITY-BASED INTEGRATED DISEASE MANAGEMENT, LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP
CEHLS strategy: supporting and partnering with MOHSW/JFK/UL for unmet Public health needs of Liberia

- The need to integrate Public Health services in the National Primary Heath system of Liberia
- The need to effectively monitor, supervise and incentivize general Community Health Volunteers (gCHV)
- The need to provide cutting edge, evidence-based, cost effective public health interventions that reflects current best practices from sub-Saharan Africa.
CEHLS strategy:

- The need to utilize nurses, physician assistants and medical officers to train, guide and to provide health education to traditional midwives, community leaders and youth in rural Liberia.

- The need to work with local and international partners to address issues affecting water, sanitation and waste management.
The strategic objective

- USAID/Liberia Health Team ........ Mission's strategic objectives which are focused on immediate improvements in rural health delivery.
- ....focus on refining five core PH courses to be delivered as a pilot Technical Certificate program to health care workers already "in the field" in rural catchment areas.
- Use the certificate program for the future development of a bachelor’s of Public Health
Curriculum Development

Practical Achievements:

- Completion of a proposed curriculum for the Public Health Technician program at JFK/TNIMA.
- Triggering the process for the adoption of the program by the JFK Board as one of its new program
- Successful engagement with key decision makers at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to initiate the program (The Chief Medical Officer, the two Deputies CMO for preventive and curative services, heads of key Divisions: HMIS, Disease Surveillance, Division of Nutrition, etc)
Practical Achievements:

- Successful buy-in by the administrator of JFK/TNIMA (sustainability and strategic partnership):
  - Collaborating with faculty for the development of the curriculum for the program
  - Proposed schedule for the program at JFK (6pm to 9pm Mondays to Friday)
  - Shared library, printer and computer room
  - Collaborating with faculty for the development of the course content for the program
Practical Achievements:

- Constant consultation and collaboration with Honorable Tolbert Nyenswah, Assistant Minister of Health for Preventive Services/Deputy Chief Medical Officer, MOHSHW (sustainability and strategic partnership)
- Recruitment of local Liberians with international advanced degrees in Public Health, health education and maternal child health as faculty (sustainability)
Practical Achievements:

- The core faculty are selected from strategic institutions like the nursing and midwifery board, the Ministry of Health (Partnership)
Practical Achievements:

- Developing strategic partnerships for the effective implementation of the program:
  - Community Health Service Division, MOHSW
  - The National Technical coordinating Unit for Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS)
  - Community Housing Foundation (WASH, CLTS)
  - School Health Division, Ministry of Education
  - Division of Environmental Health Services, Water Quality Control, MOHSW
  - Division of Environmental Health, TNIMA
  - Rebuilding Basic Health Services (RBHS), etc
  - Liberia Board of Nursing and Midwifery
Practical Achievements:

COURSES IN THE PROGRAM

- Introduction to Maternal Child Health
- Introduction to Environmental Health
- Disease Surveillance (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)
- Introduction to Public Health Administration
- Introduction to Social and Behavioral Determinant of Health
The component of the pilot program

MOHSW SELECTS CANDIDATES

SCALE UP

FACULTY AT JFK/TNIMA INTERVIEW AND SELECT 10 BEST CANDIDATE

CLASSROOM INSRUCTIONS (3 MONTHS)

Internship and community project

FIELD-BASED PRACTICUM IN AN MOHSW IDENTIFIED CATCHMENT AREA

PARTNERS WITH gCHV & CLTS

Salaries By MOHSW Rent and food stipend by the program

Present findings from intervention to key national stakeholders: MOHSW, legislature etc

Public Health Technician: CATCHMENT AREA: PILOT PERFORMANCE BASE FINANCING: MOHSW BENCHMARK, 1 year, report

PRE- AND POST INTERVENTION SURVEY USING MOHSW INDICATORS

THREE MONTHS
Work-plan of the program:

JAN. – MAY: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: MOHSW, JFK, FACULTY RECRUITMENT, CURRICULUM DEVET.

JULY. – AUG: CURRICULUM REVISION BY MOHSW AND JFK, SUBMIT TO JFK BOARD FOR APPROVAL.

JULY. – AUG: DEVELOPING COURSE CONTENT, SELECTING COURSE DIRECTOR.

SEPT.- OCT: COMMENCE PHASE I OF THE PROGRAM

AUG: - SEPT. SETTING UP FINAL LOGISTICS FOR THE PROGRAM IDENTIFY SITE OF INTERNSHIP

AUG: - SEPT. WORKING WITH MOHSW TO SELECT CANDIDATE
Our objectives are achievable

The contribution of Public Health Midwives to better health in rural communities in Sri Lanka

Dr. A. Pubudu de Silva
Our objectives are achievable

Public Health Midwives (PHMs) have been an important part of the primary healthcare system in Sri Lanka since early in the twentieth century. Traditionally these health workers focused only on midwifery, but now PHMs have evolved into a professional cadre, playing a role in preventive health covering many aspects other than midwifery. Their services are immensely valued in rural settings where health resources are scarce.
Our program is able to impact health outcomes in Liberia

Outcomes

Government programmes have ensured that skills gaps in remote areas have been reduced and that qualified healthcare professionals provide services in poor and remote areas of the country. The success of PHM recruitment, training and posting systems in the rural sector can be seen by its impact on health indices. Over the past years, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has dropped from 265 in 1935 to 5.3 per 10,000 live births in 2003 and the infant mortality rate (IMR) from 263 in 1935 to 11.2 per 1,000 live births in 2003.
Acknowledgements, "It takes a village to raise a child"

UL
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Dr. ophelia Weeks

MOHSW
Dr. Walter Gwanegale
Dr. Bernice Dahn
Hon. Tolbert Nyenswah
Mr. David Logan

JFK/TNIMA
Dr. Scott-Macdonald
Ms. Munah Tarpeh
Mrs. Sarah Kollie
Mr. Thomas Momo/Presideent alumna

The Nursing and Midwifery Board
Mrs. Cecelia Morris

Public Health Group
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Mr. James Sorsor
Mr. Tamba Boima
Mr. Thomas Momo
Mrs. Varwo Gbassie
Mrs. Cecelia Flomo
Mrs. Munah Tarpeh
Mrs. Helena Suah

IU
Dr. Charles Reafsynder
Dr. Michael Reece
Mrs. Kathleen Sorbiech
Mrs. Yna Garnett
Dr. John Beresteykey