



Networking for Effective Training: GEMNet-Health's Global Perspective for Developing Curricula

Poster No.: Fri_08.07
Congress: 9th CUGH
Type: Global Health Education Abstract
Authors: H. Kulatilaka¹, J. P. Gutierrez², H. Negandhi³, L. Hart⁴, J. Nonvignon⁵, A. Munson¹; ¹Chapel Hill, NC/US, ²Cuernavaca, Morelos/MX, ³Delhi/IN, ⁴Chapel Hill/US, ⁵Accra/GH
Keywords: Public Health, Health Systems, Education, Governance, Health Systems-Public Institution Strengthening

This PDF document has been automatically generated from a digital poster submitted online, and is meant for personal use only. Copyright restrictions might apply. Certain materials like for example videos - or multimedia files other than images in general, are not included in this PDF.

Issue

Through international partnership and collaboration, the Global Evaluation and Monitoring Network for Health (GEMNet-Health) offers a global perspective on developing and harmonizing postgraduate evaluation curricula, addressing the need for specific postgraduate training in evaluation of public health programs.

Background

GEMNet-Health is a global network of public health institutions (launched in 2012 by MEASURE Evaluation), whose purpose is to foster organizational growth, collaboration, and mutual support for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of health programs, through linkages among members. Current members are Addis Continental Institute of Public Health and Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion, Senegal; Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, Mexico; Kenyatta University, Kenya; Mahidol University, Thailand; Public Health Foundation of India, India; University of Ghana, Ghana; University of Pretoria, South Africa. MEASURE Evaluation serves as the secretariat for the network.

The GEMNet-Health platform facilitates interaction among member institutions, promoting information sharing, collaborative research, and joint training programs. As a network with a diverse set of skills and experiences and member institutions located around the world, GEMNet-Health is well placed to be a global resource offering technical assistance and capacity building in a range of M&E topics.

Among GEMNet-Health's training and research activities, developing and harmonizing evaluation course curricula is a top priority. GEMNet-Health has convened a task group to develop core competency-based curricula to promote a consistent and coordinated approach to pre-service and in-service evaluation training programs. The task group has worked on curricula for in-service M&E training, postgraduate M&E training, and postgraduate evaluation training. **This poster highlights curriculum development for postgraduate master's-level training in evaluation.**

Fig. 1: GEMNet-Health Member Institutions

References: MEASURE Evaluation, Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Chapel Hill/US

* MEASURE Evaluation is a cooperative agreement awarded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and five partner organizations: ICF International, John Snow Inc., Management Sciences for Health, Palladium, and Tulane University (<https://www.measureevaluation.org/>) .

Images for this section:



Fig. 1: GEMNet-Health Member Institutions

© MEASURE Evaluation, Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Chapel Hill/US

Rationale

Developing competency-based, standard curricula is a priority for many training institutions. GEMNet-Health recognizes the importance of harmonizing curricula and has undertaken several initiatives to develop a core competency-based evaluation curriculum.

Competency-based approach:

- Allows professionals to match with market needs
- Includes both skills and knowledge required to carry out a task
- Identifies core competencies across institutions to promote shared understanding of knowledge and skills among global evaluation professionals

Curriculum harmonization and development:

- Builds on core competencies
- Uses participatory approach to harmonize competencies and content for evaluation for health education
- Uses global perspective to strengthen content, by considering multiple perspectives and experiences
- Allows GEMNet-Health institutions to pool resources and materials for postgraduate training in evaluation
- Helps identify gaps in training materials to develop new ones
- Provides opportunity to package core training materials for evaluation courses and create useful resources for GEMNet-Health member institutions as they create or redesign their evaluation courses

Description

GEMNet-Health convened a task group to identify a set of essential competencies and corresponding core elements of curricula for postgraduate evaluation courses. These resources will help GEMNet-Health member institutions and other institutions to develop a consistent and coordinated approach to evaluation training and guide individual institutions as they create or redesign evaluation courses.

The task group has undertaken several activities to harmonize curricula:

1. Development of a list of core evaluation competencies
2. Compilation and creation of a repository of course materials, mapped to core competencies
3. Development of a syllabus and basic course curriculum for a 60-hour master's level course on evaluation of health programs

Images for this section:



Fig. 2: GEMNet-Health 2017 Planning Meeting in Cuernavaca, Mexico

© MEASURE Evaluation, Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Chapel Hill/US

Methods

Here, we outline the methods for each of the task group's key activities to harmonize curricula. Task group members communicate and collaborate through online platforms.

1. Development of core evaluation competencies:

- Compiled material relating to M&E competencies from GEMNet-Health partners' collective work and a literature review
- Developed a draft list of core evaluation competencies
- Identified the level of competency (i.e., basic, intermediate, advanced) that a participant should achieve upon completion of the course
- Shared a draft list of core competencies with experts from GEMNet-Health for review and input
- Disseminated final report on core evaluation competencies to all GEMNet-Health member institutions and the public (https://www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/wp-17-188_en/)

2. Creation of a repository of evaluation course materials

Step	Description
Developed course outline	Task group developed a generic course outline for a 60-hour master's level overview course on Evaluation of Health Programs, divided into eight modules
Mapped core competencies to course outline	Task group mapped core competencies to each topic of the course outline (competencies are spread across several topics)
Compiled course materials	Secretariat compiled course materials from twelve GEMNet-Health member institutions and select nonmember institutions
Reviewed and classified materials	Task group members reviewed course materials and classified them by module (divided modules among members for initial review, with subsequent peer-review)

Created repository of course materials (for use by GEMNet-Health members)	Secretariat created Dropbox repository of compiled course materials, organized by course module. Task group identified content areas lacking training materials
--	---

3. Development of a syllabus and basic course curriculum materials for a 60-hour master's-level course on evaluation of health programs (ongoing)

- Because of resource and time constraints, the task group adopted a staged approach, selecting two out of eight modules to start with as a pilot for development of the module content
- Module teams developed a detailed syllabus for each module, including learning objectives, topics covered, and activities for each session
- Module teams drafted course contents, including lecture slides, case studies, and practice activities, drawing from the repository of course materials
- Peer-reviewed draft syllabi and module contents
- Shared revised module syllabi and course contents with GEMNet-Health evaluation experts
- Final module packages submitted for review and approval by GEMNet-Health's steering committee

Images for this section:

Conclusions

By developing harmonized curricula, GEMNet-Health partners are promoting a consistent and coordinated approach to M&E training within and among partner institutions.

The GEMNet-Health platform has been critical to the success of the network's efforts to harmonize curricula. The relationships and trust developed over time among the partner institutions has been key to initiating and implementing joint efforts. Institutions have willingly shared curriculum materials, recognizing the added value of harmonized curricula as a means to strengthen the curriculum of each institution.

To date, key outputs of the task group's curriculum harmonization for master's-level training in the evaluation of public health programs are a list of core competencies for training in evaluation, a repository of course materials from GEMNet-Health member institutions, and a generic course outline with learning objectives and session topics for a master's-level overview course on the evaluation of health programs. The task group is developing syllabi and basic curriculum packages for several modules of this course. These materials will be available for GEMNet-Health member institutions to support their work designing and developing evaluation courses.

Challenges with global collaboration and working within a network of institutions:

- Remote collaboration: No in-person meetings; all communication occurred by email, Adobe Connect, and Skype phone calls
- Resource constraints: Task group efforts are viewed as GEMNet-Health members' in-kind contributions to the network; no monetary compensation for task group members; funding cannot support in-person meetings

Limitations of the methods:

- Time constraints (course materials and content not reviewed in-depth by every member of the task group)
- Course outline represents one of many possible course designs
- Course materials compiled from a non-exhaustive list of institutions

References

Short Bio (max. 100 words or less)

Alexandra Munson is a research assistant at MEASURE Evaluation in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She supports GEMNet-Health's Task Group on Curriculum Development for Postgraduate Evaluation Courses in curriculum harmonization work. Alexandra is presenting on behalf of the task group: Dr. Juan Pablo Gutiérrez (Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, Mexico); Dr. Himanshu Negandhi (Public Health Foundation of India); Dr. Genevieve Aryeetey and Dr. Duah Dwomoh (University of Ghana); Dr. George Otieno (Kenyatta University); Dr. Andy Beke (University of Pretoria); Dr. Alemayehu Worku Yalew (Addis Ababa University); Dr. Sian Curtis, Ms. Hemali Kulatilaka, Dr. Emily Bobrow, Dr. Emily Weaver, Ms. Lauren Hart, Ms. Alexandra Munson (MEASURE Evaluation, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).