

ACE Impact
Pre-identified Regional Development Challenge
Nursing and Professional Health Workers

Terms of Reference

Guidance

Proposals that respond to the Nursing and Professional Health Workers Pre-identified Regional Development Challenge should address the following Terms of Reference (ToRs) in the appropriate section of the proposal. While it is unlikely that a single proposal can address all of the ToRs, the proposal should make a substantial, credible effort to respond in a way that presents a cohesive, integrated program of education, research and partnership activities that aligns both with the ToRs and with the goals of the ACE Impact project.

Background

The region of West and Central Africa has some of the world's worst health outcomes. The leading causes of disease burden, measured in DALY's (2011) are illness related to: lower respiratory infection, HIV/AIDS, Diarrheal diseases, Malaria and preterm birth complications. Health is central to achieving the current global agendas of UHC2030 and SDG2030. HRH2030, and the attainment of an adequate supply of health care professionals, is an essential issue to ensure that there are sufficient healthcare professionals and health care workers available to deliver knowledge based care in partnership with communities.

Some of the Western African countries have the lowest health care professional ratios in Africa and beyond. Over the last decade, efforts have been made to build the health science capacity of the region. The proposed center should focus on key professional groups that can contribute significantly to the improvement of population health, and can reduce the burden of disease through focused community and primary health care efforts.

Nurses are the largest healthcare professional group. When they are present in sufficient numbers with adequate education, and tooled with the proper evidence, they provide the management, coordination and the care needed in communities and lead to healthier and more productive communities. Over 90% of the healthcare professionals in the region are nurses who provide care in many settings outside of the traditional urban hospital focused settings and often nurses are the only health care professionals in those settings. There is an urgent need to scale up and transform nursing education, regulation and governance. In order to scale up there is a need for faculty. There is a serious faculty shortage in nursing which is compounded by an aging faculty that will be retiring in the coming few years. Building a new cadre of educators, researchers, and health care leaders requires a new paradigm, which only can be achieved by preparing a new generation of masters and PhD prepared nurses. While nursing offers significant care and solutions to healthcare challenges, the evaluation of these services and their impact on outcomes is limited in this region. Doctoral prepared nurses - working in partnership with master prepared nurses, nurses in the field, and other relevant groups - can develop, implement, evaluate and generate new knowledge which can lead to an effective, efficient, cost effective system that can better face the challenges of UHC, SDG other major health issues. Well prepared nursing scientists, working with other nursing and community teams, can build the regional and local knowledge needed to improve the health status in the region.

Terms of Reference

- I. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Nursing and Professional Health Workers will address the following skills related aspects of the Development Challenge:
 1. Lack of qualified faculty
 2. Lack of integration between practicing nurses to academic nursing faculty
 3. Lack of well prepared nurses at the Masters level to take middle and senior level leadership positions for systems strengthening
 4. Partnership, collaboration, delegation among nursing, community and decision making groups.
 5. Collaboration with international, and regional communities to enhance evidence and implementation of evidence based health and social solutions
- II. To address the skills needs, long-term degree programs available through the Center should include:

Master's Degree Programs
1. Master's Degree in Health Policy Management
2. Master's Degree in Health Policy Leadership
3. Master's Degree in Primary Health Care
4. Master's Degree in Nursing Science
5. Master's Degree in Clinical Programs
Ph.D. Programs
1. Ph.D. in Nursing
2. Ph.D. in Clinical Programs

- III. To address professional trainings needs, short term courses should include:

Short Term Courses
1. Use of evidence in health care
2. Team management in health care
3. Clinical Skills
4. Integrated care

- IV. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Nursing and Professional Health Workers will address the following applied research related aspects of the Development Challenge:
 1. Insufficient resources and culture to build evaluation models to determine optimal care delivery methods
 2. Insufficient human resources to conduct evidence based data gathering and implementation of potential solutions
 3. Insufficient technology and data depositories to harvest and evaluate outcomes
- V. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Nursing and Professional Health Workers will undertake an applied research program that includes the following themes:

Applied Research Themes
1. Evaluation of immunization levels, implementation and delivery
2. The use of evidence-based care in improving health status using community health centers
3. Improving outcomes of infant mortality rates through system redesign

- VI. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Nursing and Professional Health Workers will have an established network of core industry/sectoral partners identified in the proposal, including:

1. Private and public sector health facilities
2. Ministries of health

VII. The selected Africa Center of Excellence in Nursing and Professional Health Workers will have an established network of academic and/or research institute partners identified in the proposal, including:

1. Regional universities that maintain active education and/or research activities focused on the health care delivery sector
2. Recognized global universities that maintain active international research collaborations focused on health worker training and delivery of health care