

GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

www.gfmer.ch

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Preface by the president

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) is a non-profit organisation established in 2002. It is supported by the Republic and Canton of Geneva and the City of Geneva and works in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). GFMER is a WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction.

In 2012 the foundation and its partners launched for the third consecutive year, the distance training / online course on sexual and reproductive health research: a total of 236 health professionals from 40 countries attended the training program.

GFMER continues its active partnership with the UNFPA/WHO 'Campaign to end fistula'. The aim has been to create a 'Centre of Excellence for the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula' in Northern Benin, which would serve other countries in the region under the name of "Tanguieta Model". During 2012 several missions were conducted to different African countries, where Prof. Charles-Henry Rochat, the overall responsible of fistula project with his team of specialists, operated a total of 253 women. Moreover local doctors were trained on the management of obstetric fistula.

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in collaboration with the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) offered a training on Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia, developed by the University of Oxford. Another training package on Post Partum Haemorrhage (PPH) has been developed and will be offered to health professionals from all over the world in 2013.

GFMER has built a strong partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations and universities for the exchange of information and expertise at international level. The website of the foundation knows an enormous success, as it has attracted 2,367,373 visitors from 224 countries in 2012.

We believe our efforts to assist the countries and programs give us the opportunity to contribute in improving the reproductive and sexual health status of the populations in need.

Finally I would like to thank the Republic and Canton of Geneva, The City of Geneva, World Health organization and other institutions, for their financial and technical supports, which ensured the successful implementation of our projects and programs.



Prof. Aldo Campana
The President

Mission

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) is a non-profit organization, cosponsored by the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the Department of Social Affairs of the City of Geneva and works in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). It aims at mobilizing resources, both technical and financial, from the public and private sectors. GFMER is a WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction.

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research has a mandate to address challenges, such as:

- The conduct of training programmes in Geneva, covering research methodology, epidemiology, reproductive and sexual health, and other medical areas.
- The dissemination of the Geneva training courses in other countries.
- The initiation and provision of support for researchers to plan, conduct and publish their scientific work.
- The dissemination of medical information on Internet.
- The development of clinical guidelines for use in clinical training programmes.
- The collaboration with the UNFPA/WHO program to end obstetric fistula.

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research capitalizes on many years of experience and activities of the WHO Collaborating Centre in Human Reproduction, Geneva.

As WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction, the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research is involved in the following activities:

- To provide a postgraduate training in research methodology in Reproductive Health.
- To develop & conduct research & research synthesis activities.
- To assist partner institutions in the conduct of postgraduate medical education programs.
- To collaborate with WHO on e-learning activities as well as on the conduct of short postgraduate courses in epidemiology.
- To provide expertise to WHO or to centers of WHO's network requesting collaboration in research, research training or clinical aspects in human reproduction.

GFMER main fields of activities

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2012

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2012/index.htm>

Since 2003 the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER), in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partner institutions, organizes a training course on sexual and reproductive health research. The course focuses on research methodology and attracts participation of health professionals from different countries and particularly from developing countries. Through the pool of participants, GFMER has managed to disseminate the course in different countries: Afghanistan, Argentina, Cameroon, China, Indonesia, Laos and Romania (http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical_education_En/PGC_network.htm).

In order to reach more health professionals, in 2010 GFMER in collaboration with WHO and other partners launched the online course on sexual and reproductive health research. "From Research to Practice: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research" that offers a training package specially developed for those health professionals involved in research, whose access to learning is limited by time, financial resource or other constraints and for whom access to quality education and learning is limited.

In 2012, the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) successfully implemented the third edition of its online training course, with more experience gained from the 2010 and 2011 editions.

Course participants





<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2012/participants.htm>

A total of 236 health professionals from 40 countries were enrolled in the online training course of 2012. The majority of them were from developing countries.

Teachers, partner institutions



Hanan Hamamy



Francis Ndowa



V. Chandra-Mouli



Heli Bathija



Charles-Henry Rochat



Mario Festin



Shyam Thapa



Mario Meriardi



Tomas Allen



Islene Araujo de Carvalho



Alfredo Fort



Moazzam Ali



Igor Toskin



Laura Guarenti



Mary Eluned Gaffield

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2012/Teachers.htm>

A total of 36 teachers from WHO, GFMER and other national and international institutions were involved in teaching and tutorship for the online training course.

Course Coordinators at country level



Homa Kabiri
(Afghanistan)



Rita Kabra
(India)



Ameyo Bonventure
Masakhwe
(Kenya)



Khalifa Elmusharaf
(Sudan)



Mahmoud Ahmed
Mahmoud Abdel-Aleem
(Egypt)



Shayesteh Hajizadeh
(Iran)



Oyunaa Lkhagvasuren
(Mongolia)



Ayse Nilufer Ozaydin
(Turkey)



Mengistu Asnake Kibret
(Ethiopia)



Aminu Magashi Garba
(Nigeria)



Morris Okwir
(Uganda)

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2012/country-coordinators/GFMER-country-coordinators.htm>

In 2012 the GFMER appointed a total of 8 coordinators in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Iran, Sudan, Mongolia and Kenya. For 2013 the Foundation is planning to expand country coordination to Uganda, Egypt, Turkey, Mozambique and Mexico.

The main tasks of country coordinators consist of:

- Students' coaching at local level, i.e., help the students to access the teaching material, learning methods. As the majority of student's paper works (assignments and research protocol) are based on the analysis of local situation in regards to sexual and reproductive health problems, the local coordinators can offer the appropriate assistance to the students.
- Ensure communication with the course organizers and students.
- Advertise course to various local training and research institutions.
- Recruit eligible candidates for the course.
- Create a network within the students from the same country.
- Organize if possible some meetings with students from the same country.
- Identify potential sponsors to provide scholarships for students. It is worth mentioning that the majority of institutions allocate funds for their human resource capacity building programs. This

online course is advantageous for health professionals especially those from developing countries, where access to a quality education is limited by time, financial resource or both.

Course contents

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2012/Course-modules.htm>

The online Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research consists in five modules:

- Maternal and Perinatal Health
- Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV/AIDS
- Family Planning
- Sexual Health with a special focus on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Community Genetics

A core module on research methods and selective lectures on gender issues, female genital mutilation and other topics related to sexual and reproductive health supplement the five modules. The contents of each module is based on the reality of health care and addresses current problems and challenges in the field of sexual and reproductive health research.

Teaching methods

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2012/Course-guide-2012.html>

Teaching methods consisted of on-line lectures (recorded, didactic presentations), key readings, reading materials, additional references and referrals to related websites. Compared to other courses, the Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research is extremely rich in terms of documentation and published teaching resources.

For each module participants receive assignments. These help participants to become more familiar with scientific reading and writing and use the knowledge acquired in the training course in their day-to-day professional practice. A personal coach is assigned to each participant. Coaches are GFMER country coordinators, who facilitate the learning process to the participants. As the majority of students' paper works (assignments and research protocol) are based on the analysis of local situation in regards to sexual and reproductive health problems, the assistance by country coordinators is really helpful.

GFMER has created an online community for the training course in order to improve communication with and between participants and provide access to academic and administrative support. The diversity among participants and the network facilitated by GFMER provide an opportunity to learn from and share experiences with peers from

Final evaluation

At the end of the course, participants of the Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research receive a certificate if they meet the following conditions:

Participants are required to have completed the assignments for the various course modules.

Participants must write either a bibliographic review on a topic relevant for their practice or a research paper, under the guidance of a tutor.

Throughout the training course, participants are supervised by country coordinators, coordinators of the modules, teachers and tutors.

Workshop in Geneva



<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2011/Geneva-Workshop/index.htm>

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2011/Geneva-Workshop/Geneva-Workshop-Evaluation-Report-2012.html>

Of all participants of the 2011 edition of online training course, 13 were invited to attend a workshop from 27 to 31 August 2012 at WHO headquarters in Geneva. The objectives of this intensive training course were to sharpen participants' skills in research protocol development and improve their research skills.

The participants of the workshop were selected on the basis of their online course performance, completion and quality of the assignments and the quality of their review or paper. The strict selection ensured that those attending the workshop in Geneva were the most motivated participants of the online training course. The Geneva workshop provided participants with additional opportunities to interact with each other and share their experiences while improving their professional skills.

Clinical training, prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula



Charles-Henry Rochat

http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical_education_En/Rochat-obstetric-fistula.htm

http://www.gfmer.ch/Presentations_Fr/Fistules_obstetricales.htm

http://www.gfmer.ch/Activites_internationales_Fr/PDF/Rapport_2012_fistules_obstetricales_Rochat.pdf

GFMER is partner in the UNFPA/WHO campaign to end fistula. The aim of GFMER participation in this campaign is to create a “Centre of Excellence for the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula” in Tanguieta (Northern Benin), which would serve as a model to other countries in the region.

The objectives of the project are:

- To train local specialists in fistula repair.
- To raise awareness about prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula.
- To develop research on obstetric fistula.

In 2012 Professor Charles-Henry Rochat, responsible for the fistula project, together with a group of specialists and local medical doctors conducted missions in several African countries where fistula cases were operated. In addition, Prof. Rochat and his team (composed of specialists from Switzerland, France, USA, Cameroon and Madagascar) organized conferences and workshops on diagnosis, treatment and follow up of fistula cases and advocated for a multidisciplinary approach for care of women suffering from obstetric fistula. The table below shows the number of fistula patients operated in several countries.



Hospital	Country	No of fistula cases operated
Hôpital St-Jean de Dieu de Tanguiéta	Benin	82
Hôpital Central de Yaoundé	Cameroon	25
Hôpital de Kissidougou, Hôpital Labé, Hôpital Kankan et centre Jean Paul II Conakry	Conakry Guinée	110
Hôpital Abéché	Tchad	6
Hôpital Luthérien de Vangaindrano	Madagascar	30
Total		253

In addition to the provision of training to local doctors and surgical care to fistula patients the following activities have been started in 2012 and will continue throughout 2013:

- Provision of scholarships to doctors from Benin, Madagascar and Cameroon, who are involved in the provision of care to fistula patients.
- Active contribution in the mobilisation and prevention of obstetric fistula.
- Financial support to patients' hospitalisation.
- Provision of surgical equipment and materials.
- Provision of financial support for the construction of building for fistula patients' consultation.
- Dissemination of "Tanguiéta Model" for obstetric fistula repair.

Supporting institutions

The GFMER obstetric fistula program is supported by the City of Geneva, the communes of Thônex, Chêne-Bougeries and Chêne-Bourg, Fondation Ambre, Rumsey Cartier, Lombard Odier, Isabelle Decazes-de Noüe, and private donors with the technical support of UNFPA and MSF Suisse.

Publications

Pierre Marie Tebeu,, Suzy Dorine Maninzou, Gisele Kengne Fosso, Bonaventure Jemea, Joseph Nelson Fomulu, **Charles-Henry Rochat**. Risk factors for obstetric vesicovaginal fistula at University Teaching Hospital, Yaoundé, Cameroon. Int J Gynaecol Obstet 2012, Vol. 118, Issue 3, Pages 256-258

Publications planned for 2013

Pierre-Marie Tebeu, Daniel Takam, , Georges Nguefack-Tsague, Kengne Fosso Gisele, Joseph Nelson Fomulu, Sinan Khaddaj, **Charles-Henry Rochat**. Prevalence of HIV Infection among Obstetrical and Non-Obstetrical Fistula Patients: an Experience from the University Centre Hospital, Yaoundé-Cameroon. Plenary session or Free Paper or Symposium.

Yves Jacques Castille, Chiara Avocetien, Dieudonné Zaongo, Jean-Marie Colas, James O. Peabody, **Charles-Henry Rochat**. Impact of a Program of Physiotherapy and Health Education on the Outcome of Obstetric Fistula Surgery. International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetric.

GFMER global consultation on WHO infertility guidelines: Addressing evidence-based guidance on infertility diagnosis, management and treatment



<http://www.gfmer.ch/infertility/index.htm>

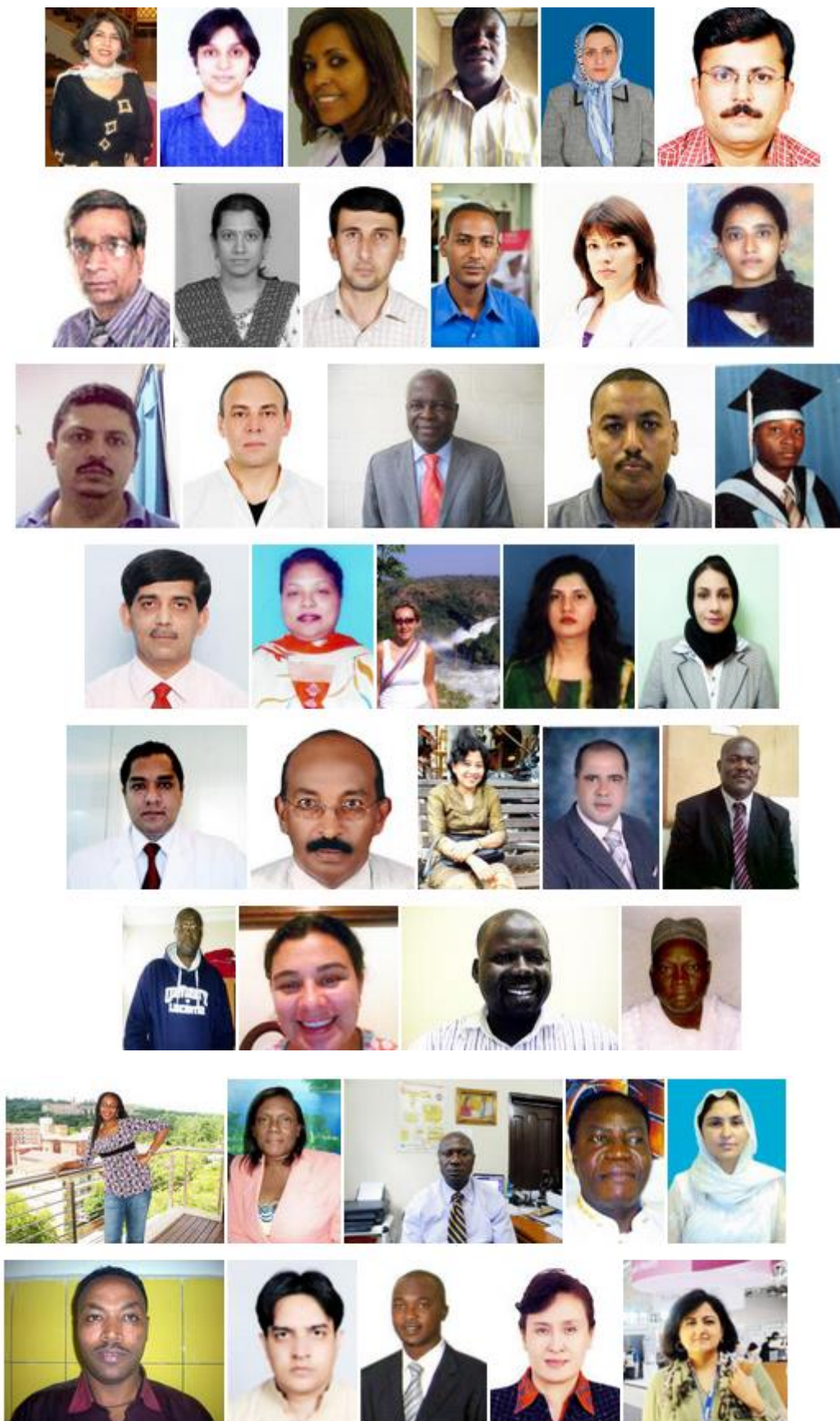
GFMER and WHO in partnership with American Society for Reproductive Health, The Walking Egg Foundation and Women Create life, developed global guidelines for infertility diagnosis, management and treatment and a related on-line training course focussing on male and female infertility in developing countries

Course duration

October 2012 to March 2013

Course participants





<http://www.gfmer.ch/infertility/participants.htm>

The participants of this course are health professionals, who hold a medically-related degree or degree certificate in gynaecology or obstetrics (or related field)/ and or andrology, with at least a minimal amount of experience in reproductive medicine and/or andrology. A total of 71 health professionals from 28 countries are enrolled in this virtual training course.

A WHO expert consultation was held, 16-17 January 2012, to scope the area of infertility, with an initial six areas prioritized for evidence review and establishment of global WHO Guidelines. Participants of this GFMER virtual course and consultation were asked to join the WHO process of Guideline development in these six prioritized areas of infertility. Participants have an opportunity to interact and become part of the global expert advisory GFMER team for WHO-RHR/HRP and its Expert Working Groups generating guidelines and manuals on infertility care and treatment.

This on-line infertility review first includes modules on the official WHO Guidelines development process, and then, through ASRM eLearning courses, the participants will have an opportunity, if required, to review the evidence-base for the basic diagnosis of the infertile male and female, coupled with review of the evidence-base for management and interventions. As a critical assignment for this course, each participant will be asked to generate an article to be assessed for publication: to evaluate the current public and private health system delivery of infertility diagnosis, management and referral; as well as, identify current access and delivery gaps within their country or within a country of interest. Participants will represent the GFMER virtual consultation component of the WHO process of global Guideline development for the infertile male, female and couple.

The evidence-based management of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia training

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in collaboration with the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) offers a training on Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia, developed by the University of Oxford. The training course is accessible online in English and in Spanish. The training is divided in two modules: a basic training for second level health workers and an advanced module for doctors and trained midwives.

The Foundation continues the dissemination of this computer-based training module through its international network of health professionals.

The screenshot shows the website for the training module. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Pre-eclampsia and eclampsia module, Curso de pre-eclampsia / eclampsia, Files, OMPHI, and GFMER. Below this is the University of Oxford logo and the title of the course. The main content area is divided into sections: Home, Basic Course, and Advanced Course. There is also a section for the Spanish version. The course description states it is an interactive course for health professionals, with a basic version for healthcare professionals and an advanced version for doctors, midwives, and nurses. It mentions the course was developed by the University of Oxford in 2010 and is funded by the MacArthur Foundation. A reference is provided: Langer A, et al. Reducing eclampsia related deaths - a call to action. Lancet 2008; 371: 703-5. The website also includes instructions on how to get the most from the course and a link to a knowledge assessment test.

The evidence-based management of postpartum haemorrhage

In partnership with the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) and financial support of Global Voices for Maternal Health and Maternal Health Task Force, the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research is developing a computer-based training module on Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH). The content of this module has been adapted from the Royal College of Obstetricians and WHO guidelines.

The content of this module has been approved by experts and the e-learning version of this module will be finished in the beginning of 2013, which will later be offered to health professionals in different countries through the international network of the Foundation.

GFMER Website (www.gfmer.ch)



The GFMER website is extensive, regularly updated and provides easy access to useful information. The website contains information about the foundation, education programs (courses), Partner, international collaboration and information resources such as publications, presentations and databases. The GFMER website contains information in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

In 2012 the GFMER website had 2,367,373 visitors from 224 countries (see http://www.gfmer.ch/Usage_statistics/GFMER-visitors-2012.html).

Activities planned for 2013

Online training course mobile phones for sexual and reproductive health

In partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research plans to develop an online training course: Mobile Phones for Sexual and Reproductive Health - "MHealth4SRH". The course is designed for professionals working in the domain of sexual and reproductive health or in information and communication technologies. Preference will be given to applicants who are willing to collaborate with other applicants from their country in order to form teams that prepare the relevant course assignments together.

Objectives

- To describe why and how mHealth is revolutionizing health care in general.
- To provide examples of successful mHealth approaches for sexual and reproductive health - those providing solutions for community members and those empowering health workers and those where mobile devices are used for data collection and transfer.
- To explore the research needs relating to mHealth for sexual and reproductive health and how to respond to these needs.
- To provide a framework for planning for a mHealth initiative on sexual and reproductive health.

Duration of course

Six weeks from 04 March to 22 April 2013

Early childhood development (ECD)

Early child development is recognized as a critical component of children's well-being, and is vital for their long term health, learning, behavior, coping and productivity, particularly for disadvantaged children. Poverty, poor health, undernutrition and lack of early stimulation can undermine children's brain development during the first three years when it is most sensitive to the influences of the external environment.

Effective interventions to promote child development exist that prevent or ameliorate against loss of developmental potential, but programme coverage is very low in the developing countries. There are relatively few investments made by governments in young children - particularly during the prenatal period through the first three years of life - and families are often not prepared, or not aware, of the critical role they can play in protecting and stimulating early psychosocial development. In the recent past, evidence about simple though effective interventions that families and care givers could use in all contexts to promote early development has become available. The recommendations of such interventions are derived from a number of overlapping approaches which have a synergistic effect on growth, cognitive and socio-emotional development, and which enhance the capacity of the mother/caregiver to carry out responsive care giving behaviours. If implemented on a wide-scale such interventions will have significant public health and social benefits, especially for the most disadvantaged children and families.

The health sector has a unique role to play in ensuring each child has the opportunity not only to survive but also to thrive. Countries are encouraged to incorporate promotive and preventative care for early child development into the primary health care sector, with outreach to families.

In order to assist in the uptake and scalability of ECD interventions with special reference to developing countries, GFMER in collaboration with partners, proposes to develop and launch a set of eLearning tools on ECD including an online training course for programme managers and health workers. It will thus take advantage of the many benefits of innovative learning technologies to transfer ECD knowledge and skills through out-of-classroom and in-classroom education using various technology platforms, from CD-ROMs and computer-based instruction to videoconferencing and virtual educational networks.

The aim is to contribute in building ECD capacity in countries by allowing participation of those health care professionals whose access to learning is limited by lack of training opportunity, time, financial resources or other constraints. The course will be proposed for in-service and basic training of health workers allowing for learner-directed and self-paced instruction. Mobile learning applications - which a learner can access remotely from anywhere using a hand-held or mobile device such as smart phones, mobile phones, and tablets - will also be developed. A systematic process will be used for the participation of health professionals through country teams.

Sexual and reproductive rights

In order to achieve sexual and reproductive health, people need to know their sexual and reproductive rights. The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) therefore sees a close relationship between sexual and reproductive health on the one hand and the legal and political system on the other. For these reasons the Foundation plans to create a dedicated website on Sexual and Reproductive Rights.

Since its establishment in 2002 GFMER has exchanged sexual reproductive health expertise with governmental and non-governmental organizations all over the world. GFMER has become a resource centre for training and research in human sexuality and reproduction, creating a vast network of health professionals in developing and developed countries.

Objectives

With this website GFMER seeks to contribute to a meaningful inclusion of human rights in sexual and reproductive health issues.

Content of the sexual and reproductive right website

- Introductions to major sexual and reproductive rights topics.
- Regularly updated summaries of national legislations for the major areas of sexual and reproductive health.
- Selected publications on (changes in) legislation and ethical issues in sexual and reproductive health.

GFMER LAO PDR Programme

Training in Maternal and Newborn Health, a Continued Medical Education for Health Professionals

The main purpose of this program is to enhance the knowledge and skills of health professionals in providing appropriate maternal and child health care at primary care level, especially in rural areas.

The Health Ministry of the Lao PDR recognizes the importance of quality of service delivery by doctors and midwives at primary care level, as the country records very high maternal and child mortality. Thus provision of quality education to health professionals is crucial.

Implementing Partners

- Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)
- Lao PDR Ministry of Health
- National University of Health Sciences and Faculty of Nursing Sciences, Vientiane
- National Mother and Newborn Hospital and Mahosot Hospital, Vientiane
- National Institute of Public Health (NIOPH)
- National Centre for Mother and Child Health (NCMCH)
- WHO and UNFPA Vientiane

Eligible Participants

Participants of this course will be midwives, public health officers and nurses. A total of 10 -12 health professionals per session will be enrolled in this course. The participants will be selected from rural areas.

Duration of the course

Three months (8 weeks theoretical course with 4 weeks practical training at the Gynecology & Obstetric ward of Mother and Newborn National Hospital and Mahosot hospital).