

Project Title	Health Systems Strengthening in Somaliland with a focus on Increasing Human Resources for Health Capacity
Client	DFID
Partners	King's College Hospital (KCH)/ Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET), Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists International Office (RCOG-IO), Health Unlimited (HU), Save the Children UK (SCUK), Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) and Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health (LATH)
Year	2007 – 2009 (With extension to 2010)

Context

The Ministry of Health and Labour (MoHL) in Somaliland is committed to providing effective health services in Somaliland and has requested external assistance to support health sector development. This programme begins to address two government priorities; namely human resource development and maternal and child health. The programme is designed to strengthen human resource capacity and lay the foundation for the long-term redevelopment of the health sector.

Programme Objectives

The primary objective of the programme is to contribute to the development of human and institutional capacity & competence, crucial for the rebuilding of the national health care system in Somaliland.

Approach

This programme will be implemented through a combined effort of 5 partners:

- KCH/THET's focus is on human resource development, training, capacity building and support to health training institutions and professional bodies in the health sector.
- RCOG-IO is responsible for the design and delivery of Life Saving Skills (LSS) courses in Emergency Obstetric Care and Newborn care.
- SCUK's focus is on strengthening the training and supervision of primary health care staff and supporting the coordination of their training.
- Health Unlimited's focus is on health education and dissemination of information about changes taking place in the health sector thereby increasing demand for, and utilisation of the services being developed.
- LATH provides Programme Coordination and Management.

The programme works in close collaboration with the MoHL and with partners and institutions in Somaliland; eg. Boroma Hospital, Hargeisa Hospital and Borao Hospitals.

Expected Outcomes

Outcome 1: Health training institutions will have the technical capacity to deliver basic training and continuous professional development for doctors, nurses and midwives which will support them in their delivery of the Essential Health Package.

Outcome 2: Increased technical capacity of primary health care workers to deliver maternal and child health care services.

Outcome 3: Increase in the capacity of professional bodies and progress made towards establishing appropriate regulatory frameworks.

Outcome 4: Growing public awareness of the changes taking place in the health system.

Results to Date

Output 1 – One of the main activities under this outcome is an internship program for newly graduated medical students. At the start of the programme there were 5 students but there are now 12 with the addition of 6 medical students who graduated in January 2009. A medical internship guide with defined competencies has been developed along with competencies for nurse tutors. A common examination schedule for medical schools has been agreed. Nurse tutor training is also part of this outcome with the objective of improving the standard of nurses graduating from the system. Basic books and skills laboratory equipment are in place. A total of 27 nurse tutor students are currently enrolled on the training programme.

RCOG-IO has conducted Life Saving Skills in Emergency Obstetric and New born Care LSS/EOC & NC to nurses/midwives, doctors (including medical interns) and final year medical students from every region in Somaliland. A total of 156 health care professionals have completed the LSS training and 20 of the 22 nationally trained trainers can now facilitate the LSS EOC & NC training.

Output 2 – SCUUK's focus is mainly on the Community Health Workers (CHWs). These have the most contact with the communities as they are based within the community. A task force for primary health care staff was established through the programme and has been meeting continuously with visible deliverables;

- A curriculum for CHWs training has been developed with a training manual for Trainer of Trainers (TOT) for CHWs.
- The first set of CHWs, 21 in number, began and completed their formal training in December 2008. These have returned to their community sites (health posts) where they will be supervised by a joint team of a trainer, SCUUK and MOHL staff.

A second group of 19 CHWs have begun their formal training and will be assigned to various health posts once their formal training is complete. The objective of this training is to ensure that the communities have access to reliable health services and where necessary are referred to higher level health centres..

Output 3 – THET/KINGS are working with medical, nursing and midwifery associations in Somaliland to increase capacity and also introduce regulatory mechanisms. The Somaliland Nursing and Midwifery Association has achieved over a 300 % increase in its membership. The Somaliland Medical Association (SMA) has also recorded increased membership at a rate of 21%. The SMA is now holding Continuous Education workshops on relevant topics (diseases such as diabetes, hypertension etc) and these have been found to be useful by the health professionals who attend. Work with the Health Professional Council (HPC) is also proceeding well. A successful consultancy has been undertaken to conduct a fully inclusive consultative process with relevant

stakeholders (the medical and nursing associations, the Somaliland Lawyers Association, Ministry of Interior Affairs, WHO and other local professional bodies). The objective of this consultancy is to establish and refine the role of the HPC. A working group for the 'National Health Professions Council' has been established and will commence work next quarter to take forward recommendations in the report and the workplan.

Output 4 – Messages about the changes being brought about by HSSP are being communicated to the public. The programme is using Radio Fana, an Addis Ababa based radio station, which is well received throughout the Somali speaking part of the Horn of Africa. A total of 7 audience groups have been reconstituted outside of Hargeisa with an aim of increasing listenership of the radio programmes. The messages are thus likely to be heard by a much larger audience and hopefully this will lead to higher usage of the public health care system in Somaliland. A new set of Information Educational & Communication (IEC) materials has been produced. This set was designed consultatively with all the HSSP partners and contain relevant health messages. The IEC materials include fob watches for nurses, calendars and year planners.