

NDOH Impact Assessment Baseline Survey: Capacity Building for NDOH Researchers

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1. Summary of impact

With the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development (WHO CC UTS) supporting PNG's National Department of Health (NDOH) to update its curricula for nurses and community health workers, a key part of this process has been to gather data on the effectiveness of the current curriculum. In order to support the success of the survey and the overall project, four members of the NDOH's National Curriculum Steering Committee attended capacity building and upskilling workshops and professional developing and networking opportunities in Sydney in November 2021, with the support of a UTS Social Impact Grant, to further their learning on measuring, evaluating and demonstrating impact. This supported them in implementing this complex program, particularly strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, as well as build their capacity to support future large scale national projects in PNG.

2. The problem

With Papua New Guinea embarking on universal health coverage, improving the training for its key health workforce, particularly nurses and community health workers (CHWs), is critical. However, the existing curricula for nurses and CHWs was developed in the late 1990s and finalised in 2002, and fails to align with the current national context, national standards and the new National Health Plan 2021-2030. WHO CC UTS has been contracted by WHO PNG to coordinate the review and development of PNG's National Curricula for Diploma of General Nursing and Certificate for Community Health Worker.

A key part of this process has been to conduct a Baseline Survey to gather data on the effectiveness of the current curriculum, as well as highlight gaps in the skills and knowledge of current nursing and CHW students, recent graduates and their supervisors.

3. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the overall Strengthening Health Workforce Education in PNG – of which the NDOH Impact Assessment Baseline Survey: Capacity Building for NDOH Researchers is a part – are PNG's professional health workforce and educators and the populations served by them. On a more direct scale, the Social Impact Grant supported the NDOH staff who participated in the workshops to upskill in measuring, evaluating and demonstrating impact. Indirectly, it supports their NDOH colleagues, the National Steering Committee, and the Nursing and CHW sub-committees who are charged with ensuring the program is sustainable.

4. Approach to impact

In order to support the success of the survey and the overall project, four members of the NDOH's National Curriculum Steering Committee who worked on the baseline survey attended capacity building and upskilling workshops and professional developing and networking opportunities in Sydney in November 2021, with the support of a UTS Social Impact Grant, to further their learning on measuring, evaluating and demonstrating impact.

5. What has changed as a result of this work?

The workshops have provided the NDOH contingent with upskilling, capacity building and professional development opportunities that will support them in their implementing complex strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation on this as well as future large scale national projects in PNG, both within and outside the NDOH.

6. What has helped you accomplish this work?

The overall Strengthening Health Workforce Education in PNG program has been supported financially by the WHO and the Australian Department of Foreign affairs and Trade. UTS has provided administrative and academic support, and the Social Impact Grant supported the upskilling of key stakeholders involved in its design and delivery.

7. Challenges

Visa approval processes for the NDOH contingent proved to be time consuming and complex, and there were issues with scheduling the workshops around last minute changes to travel changes and changing project priorities, however this was overcome thanks to the flexibility and professionalism of WHO CC UTS and NDOH staff and the generosity of those involved in delivering the workshops.