

MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION STRATEGY

Global Learning and Evidence Exchange

East and Southern Africa Regional Meeting



Integration of nutrition curriculum into universities:
lessons learned
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Introduction

- Development Challenge:
 - Rising levels of obesity and associated conditions
 - Lack of trained dieticians

Introduction

- Our Project: Nutrition Capacity Strengthening
- Our partners:
 - Tufts University/NIL (prime)
 - Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - University of Malawi
- Well-aligned with USAID and Government of Malawi priorities

Activities Thus Far & Next Steps

- How it started: Request from the University
- Where we are now:
 - Curriculum approved by Senate and Medical Council of Malawi on February 23, 2016
- Where we are going next: Classes begin **Mar 14**

Looking Back, Lessons Learned

Needs Assessment: What we did right

- We talked to stakeholders
- Did literature reviews
- Reviewed Government of Malawi policies and strategies

Looking Back, Lessons Learned

- Needs Assessment: What we could have done better
 - More of defining what skills Malawians want in a dietitian.
 - What is required for training?

Looking Back, Lessons Learned

- Curriculum Development: What we did right
 - Modeled after developed programs (SA ,US)
 - Competency based, focused on practical training
 - Reviewed BSc Nutrition program, added to curriculum already at Bunda.
 - Bringing in expertise where needed.

Looking Back, Lessons Learned

Curriculum Development: What we could have done better

- Involving regulatory bodies from the start
- Working backwards from “graduate descriptor”

Going Forward, What We Hope to Learn

- Given the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition, where does nutrition training fit?
- What value will this new cadre of staff really bring to Malawi?

Key Takeaways

- Conduct a thorough needs assessment
- For curriculum development, work backwards
- Work with an institution, rather than consultants
- Hire a local team or create a working group to facilitate collaboration and local ownership