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