

Introduction

Makerere University Institute of Public Health (MUIPH) (now School of Public Health) evolved from a department in Faculty of Medicine to an autonomous Institute in 2001. In 2007, Council changed its name to School of Public Health.

It has lived to its mission of improving and attainment of better health for the people of Uganda. Through its undergraduate, post graduate and collaborative programs, the Institute has persistently and diligently trained personal in line with Public Health related issues. It continues to render valuable services to communities by a way of attachment of its undergraduate students to Kasangati and post graduate students to 15 districts in the country. Its continuous insight in research in major epidemics in the country and its participation in disease outbreak investigation makes it one of the key players in the effort to improve Public Health in Uganda and the world.

Departments:

The Institute comprises of the following departments:

1. Epidemiology and Bio-statistics
2. Health Policy Planning and Management
3. Community Health and Behavioral Sciences
4. Disease Control and Environmental Health.
5. Regional Center for Quality of Health Care

Through its members of staff in the above named five departments in addition to service delivery and teaching, it undertakes several research projects in the fields of Health Systems, HIV/AIDS, Epidemiology and many other public health related issues.

It has two centers where the students are exposed to community medicine and these are: Kasangati Health Center which was established in 1959 and the Regional Center for Quality Health Care established in 1999.

Immediate Objectives:

- 1) To improve the quality of training through strengthening field-training sites, increasing stock of resources and establishing strategic linkages and networks to harness teaching resources and market the Institute.
- 2) To improve quality and expand the scope of research through establishing a clear research agenda, developing a dissemination policy for research findings and improving research capacity at the Institute.
- 3) To build capacity to manage the delivery of community services by improving MUIPH business management capability for better delivery of community services.
- 4) To strengthen technical capacity for evidence-based policy formulation and program implementation. This is to be done by building staff capacity in policy analysis and evaluation and also strengthening linkages with stakeholders in policy formulation and program implementation.

Collaboration in training with other institutions

The Institute has enjoyed collaboration with Johns Hopkins School of Public Health aimed at facilitating staff development and the development of new programs. It also closely collaborates with the Water Reed Army Research Institute and this focuses on evaluation of the immunogenicity, safety and efficacy of new HIV vaccine products. It is also engaged in an international Multidisciplinary research collaboration, among the Universities of Columbia, John Hopkins and Ministry of Health with the following goals:

- 1) To gather rigorous, Evidence Based data which will contribute to improving health of populations of Rakai District and Uganda.
- 2) To expand human resource professionals and students and
- 3) To contribute to the physical infrastructure for research and clinical

services in Uganda and because of its community –based approach to the collection of interview data and biological specimens, it offers unique opportunities for the generation of hypothesis driven intervention trials and observational studies.

The Institute has also over the years enjoyed Collaboration with centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta with which it is running a fellowship program which is offered on a competitive basis to any holder of a post graduate degree in Public Health or any health related field such as medicine, social sciences, statistics journalism, information technology etc. The Fellowship trains individuals to gain expertise in various aspects of managing HIV/AIDS programmes. It provides systematic Public Health training focused on increasing the number of professionals trained in management, monitoring, evaluation and communication needed to spearhead new HIV/AIDS programmes as well as strengthen and/or replicate successful programmes. It is a basically an apprenticeship programme.

It is also involved in a collaborative venture referred to as the Public Health in Complex Emergence programme with Oxford University, Institute of Tropical medicine, Antwerp, Moi University, Nairobi and Makerere University School of Public Health. It focuses on critical Public Health issues faced by NGO/PVS persons working in complex emergency situations.

KASANGATI HEALTH CENTRE

Makerere University School of Public Health has a specialised centre where students are exposed to community medicine. The Model Health Centre at Kasangati in Wakiso District, 14km north of Kampala on Gayaza Road serves three main purposes as given below:

- Teaching Public Health to Medical students and other allied staff.
- Serving as a Research Centre in Community Medicine.
- Providing basic health service to the community.

As an affiliated centre, Kasangati Health Centre is thus a resource for the tripartite functions of training, research and service in the School of Public Health. Medical students are sent in four cohorts of not more than 30 students to learn how the centre provides health services to the community and how they can improve on these services.

REGIONAL CENTRE FOR QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE

Background

The sub-Saharan countries of Africa experienced a period of optimism during the decades following independence where it was felt that improvement in all sectors was inevitable. But this was rushed when a period of decline set in sweeping across the entire region. This decline did not spare the health sector which witnessed widespread deterioration in Health Care delivery and the re-emergence of diseases which had previously been under control.

There has however emerged a period of New Hope in the region where there has been talk of democratization, accountability, transparency and empowerment. In order not to miss this opportunity it is important to mobilise, recruit and train personnel who will effect and manage the expected change for the better in the Health Sector. In 1994 WHO Health Ministers' Conference for Africa passed a resolution urging member countries to establish National Quality of Care Programs. Two conferences organized by WHO in Brazaville and Lesotho, further underlined the urgency of addressing the subject and the need to train leaders in the region.

The Ministry of Health of Uganda has with the help of World Bank established the Department of Quality Assurance which has been operational for the last two years. The Department has also received support from USAID through the Regional Economic and Service Office (REDSO) who has also expressed and demonstrated interest in training health professionals in the Region in Quality of Health Care. It is currently supporting the development of a curriculum

for a postgraduate diploma in Quality of Health Care to be offered by the School of Public Health (IPH).

For the past 2 years, Regional Economic and Service Office (REDSO) has been working closely with Network Partners and leaders in the African Region to improve the quality of reproductive and child health. In addition, the Quality of Care Network comprising of 800 health professionals representing over 20 Nations identified a set of priority topics and interventions which have evidence of being and are collectively believed to be most likely to improve the quality of health care in the region.

These include:

- standards and guidelines
- innovative training
- logistic support
- facilitative supervision
- Quality assurance, cost and quality.

It was also recognized that these topics in themselves will not necessarily reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality unless they are coupled with effective interventions. These areas were identified as;

- Prevention and Care Management of Malaria
- Reproductive Health/Family Planning
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV
- Intergrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI)
- Nutrition
- Tuberculosis
- Cervical Cancer
- Accidents and Emergency Care.

Almost all countries in the African region have started or are in the process of starting Quality of Care Programs, but trained personnel to man these programmes are lacking. Already the Ministry of Health of Uganda in partnership with John Hopkins University and the Quality Assurance Program in Washington has successfully run two 2-weeks courses in Jinja. The participants have expressed desire for further training. It is hoped that the proposed course in the School of Public Health mentioned above will address this need. REDSO currently funds

QoC activities in the region utilizing financial mechanism and technical expertise of Global Bureau result projects operated by cooperating US-based agencies. While it is desirable to maintain this partnership it is envisaged that there is need to shift this activity to a local African Institution.

Makerere University, Faculty of Medicine put forward a proposal to give a home to this institution. This proposal has been supported by leaders in the region that Uganda provides leadership and coordination of the Quality of Care Program through the establishment of a Regional Quality of Health Care Center to be housed in the Faculty of Medicine and administered by the School of Public Health.

Vision

An internationally recognized regional centre of excellence advancing the quality of health care in Africa.

Mission

To provide leadership in building regional capacity to improve quality of health care by promoting better practices through networking, strategic partnerships and education.

Guiding Principles

- i) **Regional Ownership:** The center and network determine the direction and a substance of quality of care activities according to the needs of the region.
- ii) **Collaborative/Partnership:** Strategic linkages and participatory collaboration with key organisations throughout and beyond the region in order to maximize the range of expertise, foster regional ownership and expand access to human and other resources.
- iii) **Evidence-based:** All activities of the center, including identification of needs and promotion of better practices are based on empirical evidence documented through scientific processes.
- iv) **Integrity:** The center conducts its activities with transparency and accountability.
- v) **Right to Quality of Care:** All users of services have the basic right to the highest level of quality of care possible.

Objectives

General Objective

The center will have as its main function capacity building in the region in order to strengthen Network Priority focus areas. The role of the center will be facilitative and catalytic.

Specific objectives

- i) *Advocacy*: advocate for improving quality of health care in Africa and coalescing national leadership.
- ii) *Dissemination*: use innovative and appropriate technologies and approaches to disseminate (critical information to expand the use of better practices and lessons learned in the region.
- iii) *Training*: through training, education and experiential learning create a critical mass of health managers and service providers with relevant skills to implement quality of health care.
- iv) *Networking*: strengthen and support networking to increase adoption of better practices.
- v) *Country Support*: strengthen countries in designing, managing and monitoring strategic plans for quality of Health Care.
- vi) *Clearing House*: maintain up-to-date resources and information on critical regional priorities.
- vii) *Better practices*: facilitate intra-regional technical assistance to support the adoption (use) and extension of better practices.
- viii) *Sustainability*: To ensure the sustainability of the quality of a care centre and quality of care activities in the region.

Education and Training Programme

The center runs several courses in order to create a critical mass of Health Managers and service providers with the relevant skills to implement Quality of Health Care. The programme includes:

- Postgraduate Diploma in Quality of Health Care - a one year course
- Master of Science in Quality of Health Care
- Short courses in: Improving Quality of

Care.

- i) Foundation course in Quality Assurance
- ii) Reproductive Health (Planned for September 1999)
- iii) Financial Management and Economic Evaluation in Health Care (Planned for September 1999)
- iv) Integrated Management of Childhood illness
- v) Prevention and Case Management of STI's
- vi) Management and Medical Emergencies
- vii) Prevention and Case Management of Malaria
- viii) Logistic Support
- ix) Facilitative Supervision
- x) Innovative Training

These will usually be run over a period of one to two weeks.

COURSES OFFERED:

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES:

The School of Public Health provides training in public health sub-specialties such as community health, public health nutrition, maternal and child health, epidemiology and bio-statistics, communicable disease control, environmental health, health services management etc to the following undergraduate programmes:

- Diploma in Public Health Nursing (DPHN)
- Diploma in Environmental Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Environmental Health Science (B.ENV.H.Sc)
- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN)
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm)
- Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)
- Bachelor of Science in Medical Radiography (BMR)