

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT FOR GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

- Many public health workers in developing countries lack basic management skills, including planning, priority setting, and problem solving, needed to effectively implement interventions to prevent disease and disability (e.g., immunizations, oral rehydration therapy, malaria chemoprophylaxis).
- This shortage of management skills has been compounded by recent global trends shifting responsibility from management to workers in the health system.
- Most developing countries lack qualified faculty, appropriate curricula, and the most basic training resources to provide competency-based training for their public health workforce.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

Since 1992, CDC's Sustainable Management Development Program (SMDP) has trained 235 instructors in 55 countries worldwide in the basic management skills of planning, priority setting, problem solving, budgeting, and supervision. SMDP has helped strengthen the public health infrastructure supporting the nearly 4 billion people who live in these countries. Program graduates return home to teach these skills in various public health settings, including academic institutions, government training programs, and nongovernmental organizations. SMDP's strategy includes working with international donor partners to provide in-country technical assistance that supports alumni in such areas as curriculum development; marketing, organizing and teaching workshops; and supervising applied learning projects. SMDP also produces ready-to-use management training tools that are specifically designed to facilitate teaching management concepts to health workers in developing countries.

Example of Program in Action

Since 1994, CDC's SMDP has worked with the Philippines Department of Health to strengthen its capacity to train program managers at the provincial and district levels. The 16 Filipino SMDP alumni have institutionalized a Field Management Training Program within the Philippines Department of Health, a program which now provides management training for health workers throughout the Philippines. Graduates of the Philippines program have also begun serving as training consultants in Asia and the Pacific helping professionals in other countries develop management training programs. Other SMDP-supported management training programs exist in Botswana, Croatia, Guam, Malawi, Mexico, Nicaragua, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zambia.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

CDC continues to work with established programs, such as the one described above in the Philippines, to expand regional training capacity and help identify donor organizations willing to invest in strengthening public health management training capacity.