KEN-AHILA organized two senior nurses training workshops held in April and July 2009. The training was tailored to guide nurses on e-access to health information.

In April the nurses were introduced to sources of information, search techniques, search engines, and online databases such as HINARI, Pubmed and Cochrane.

The session was purely hands-on exercises based on navigating HINARI and Pubmed. The exercises for HINARI included: subject searching, searching journals and electronic databases such as PubMed Central.

Pubmed exercises included: basic search, use of limits, and using the index, linking to Pubmed from HINARI. In addition, the nurses were shown how to use the Cochrane Library.

In July the nurses visited Oloishobor Dispensary, Ngong District Health Options Kenya (DHOK) where they were introduced to the concept of community health and its interrelatedness to health information.

The training focuses on health promotion who was represented by Ms. Susan Njerere a presenter on "Nutrition" while Dr. N. Muruguri, Director of NASCOP (National AIDS/STD Control Programme) gave a captivating presentation on the HIV situation in Kenya.

The Ministry of Public Health gave two paper presentations. Dr. H. Salim, Director of Division of Health promotion who was represented by Ms. Susan Njerere gave a presentation on "Nutrition" while Dr. N. Muruguri, Director of NASCOP (National AIDS/STD Control Programme) gave a captivating presentation on the HIV situation in Kenya.

The IFLA/FAIFE workshop aimed at equipping information professionals with skills to re-package consumer health information. The following topics were covered during the workshop: Intellectual freedom, accident and prevention, drug abuse, infectious disease, nutrition and good health.

The IFLA/FAIFE workshop facilitators and KEN-AHILA members visit Oloishobor Dispensary, Ngong District.
CHWs services and working methods: Kenya is implementing a community health strategy programme which is a vision 2030 flagship project. The project is designed to re-engineer and revitalize the failed PHC in Kenya. This project aims at empowering the individuals, households and communities to manage their own health and consequently contribute in reversing the worsening health indicators such as maternal mortality ratio, infant mortality rate, under five mortality rate, stunting rate in children, immunization coverage, HIV prevalence and life expectancy which the conventional PHC failed to achieve. Fifty (50) CHWs are selected from a population of 5,000. Each CHW is assigned to 20 households with a population of 100 people. They offer voluntary preventive and promotive health services in assigned households in the areas of disease prevention and control, family health, hygiene and environmental sanitation. A Community Health Extension Worker (CHEW) who is on government pay is assigned to supervise 2,500 CHWs thus each CHEW is manned by 2 CHEWs. Besides supervision, the CHEWs also train the CHWs. The motivations provided to CHWs so that they are retained include protective wear, bicycles, training, supervision and reimbursement of direct costs and periodic reward for excellent performers. The CHWs use simple community health information tools with a limited number of indicators for monitoring to collect data from the households they offer services. This data is used in dialogue days and the consensus made from the dialogues is used to plan for community action days.

VCT, immunization, hand washing with soap and deliveries at the health facilities as opposed to home deliveries. Through this community strategy which relies intensively on CHWs services, Kenya is expected to meet MDGs number 4.5 and 6 which are all directly on health by 2015. Besides this, Kenya will be an example of African countries which will have eradicated most of the preventable disease by 2030. My parting shot is to appeal to all development partners to support this noble strategy whose results will be used as positive lessons for replication in other developing countries that have a high disease burden which calls for a reverse.

Chronic diseases and neglected diseases in Africa: research and the information needs of health personnel

AHILA and RIDS/BF the Burkina Faso National Chapter Announce

12th CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND LIBRARIES IN AFRICA (AHILA)
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
11 – 16 October 2010

Health Information in Africa: Meeting our Goals

Sitz-Bowen, Eben

Re-defining the role of the informational professional in provision of health information

Use of ICTs to bridge the information divides in Africa

Collecting and disseminating health research outcomes at institutions: open archives issues

Patient and the public: access to and dissemination of health information in Africa

Chronic diseases and neglected diseases in Africa: research and the information needs of health personnel

Evidence based health care in Africa: the latest information with relevance to local practices

Kwabena Tabi

31 July 2010

Contact Details

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To join HIFA please go to the website: www.hifa2015.org
Regional AIDS Training Network (RATN) is an International Regional NGO with membership in eleven (11) countries within Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region. These countries are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Rwanda, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, and South Africa. RATN functions as a facilitator to strengthen the capacity of Member training institutions and as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences. It has an established network of twenty five (25) Member Institutions (MIs).

Vision: “A Society with the capacity to respond effectively to the HIV and AIDS pandemic”.

Mission
RATN works to strengthen the capacity of relevant individuals, organizations and other stakeholders to respond to STIs/HIV/AIDS in the Eastern and Southern Africa region.

As a Network, RATN’s role is to:
- Facilitate development and delivery of new training course and capacity building programmes for the priority areas in the ESA region;
- Mobilize and provide resources for dissemination of existing HIV training programs to a wider audience;
- Develop a network of easily accessible technical experts in ESA region;
- Serve as a focal point for discussion of HIV training and capacity development issues;
- Advocate for relevant policy environment to support quality assurance and optimizing the Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of HIV training and capacity development programs.

For more details: http://www.ratn.org/
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