

Developing a Competency-Based Curriculum on HIV/AIDS for Nursing Schools in Haiti

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Background

Preparing health care workers to confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic is an urgent challenge in Haiti, where the HIV prevalence rate is 2.2% and approximately 10,100 people are taking antiretroviral treatment (ART). There is a critical shortage of doctors in Haiti, leaving nurses as the primary care providers for much of the population. Haiti's approximately 1,000 nurses play a leading role in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment. However, nurses do not receive sufficient training in HIV/AIDS at the pre-service level to carry out this important work.

Methodology

The International Training and Education Center on HIV (I-TECH) collaborated with the Haiti Ministry of Health and Population and Ministry of Education over a period of 12 months to create a competency-based HIV/AIDS curriculum that was integrated into the 4-year baccalaureate program of the four national schools of nursing.

A national oversight committee, consisting of leading education and health officials, formed a curriculum working group that was made up of nurse educators and HIV experts. The working group adapted international HIV/AIDS competencies to the Haitian context and then defined over 350 knowledge, skill, and attitudinal learning objectives for nursing students to achieve during their 4 years of education.

The working group produced the *HIV/AIDS Reference Manual* for faculty, which features evidence-based content, protocols, and guidelines. The committee also created the *HIV/AIDS Teaching Guide* for faculty on how to integrate and achieve the new learning objectives within their current courses. This guide lists competencies and subcompetencies, learning objectives, recommended chapters of the *Reference Manual*, learning methods, and evaluation methods for each course. The working group then provided training on implementing the new curriculum to faculty from each nursing school, which included training in interactive teaching methods and curriculum design.

Currently, a team from the working group is monitoring the implementation of the new curriculum and providing feedback to faculty on their abilities to apply what they learned in the trainings. The faculty have had no difficulties with integrating the new content into their courses, but it has been noted that there is a lack of material resources and infrastructure to support teaching activities (projectors, flip charts, etc.), which I-TECH is working to address.



National Oversight Committee and Curriculum Working Group

Project Timeline

Dates	Key Event
5/2006	Conducted needs assessment
6/2006	Held kick-off meeting for working group formation
7/2006–2/2007	Drafted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haiti-specific nursing HIV/AIDS competencies Learning objectives Learning and evaluation methods for each objective Mapped learning objectives to existing courses
6/2007	Finalized Teaching Guide and Reference Manual
10/2007	Held faculty development trainings
Present	Conducting monitoring and evaluation

Core Competencies in HIV/AIDS

A. Prevent HIV infection among individuals and the community

- A.1 Conduct community and individual education on HIV/AIDS
- A.2 Perform HIV pretest counseling
- A.3 Conduct HIV testing
- A.4 Perform HIV posttest counseling
- A.5 Prevent and treat accidental blood exposure
- A.6 Prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- A.7 Prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections
- A.8 Ensure post-exposure prophylaxis in cases of sexual violence

B. Promote the health of people living with HIV

- B.1 Provide counseling on well-being and nutrition
- B.2 Prevent opportunistic infections

C. Evaluate the health status of people living with HIV

- C.1 Identify the clinical signs of HIV infection
- C.2 Conduct biologic tests
- C.3 Classify the patient according to stages of infection as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

D. Ensure the care of adults and children infected with HIV/AIDS

D.1 Therapeutic interventions

- D.1.1 Identify the patients eligible for ART
- D.1.2 Counsel for adherence to ART
- D.1.3 Treat opportunistic infections
- D.1.4 Manage the nutrition of PLWHA
- D.1.5 Administer ART
- D.1.6 Ensure the follow-up of a patients taking ART
- D.1.7 Manage a pregnant women infected by HIV
- D.1.8 Manage a child infected with HIV
- D.1.9 Provide palliative care

D.2 Link patients to psychosocial and community interventions

- D.2.1 Provide spiritual support
- D.2.2 Provide social and economic support
- D.2.3 Provide psychological support
- D.2.4 Support clients in managing grief
- D.2.5 Link patients to legal support
- D.2.6 Provide support to orphans and other vulnerable children
- D.2.7 Ensure the community management of people living with HIV
- D.2.8 Prevent and treat burnout among nurses

E. Ensure the management of various aspects of the HIV/AIDS control program

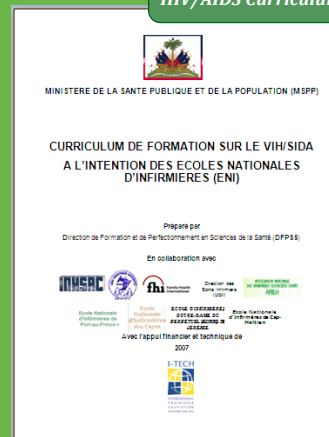
- E.1 Work as a member of a multidisciplinary team
- E.2 Manage the drugs and other inputs necessary for the care of people living with HIV
- E.3 Manage the medical records of HIV patients
- E.4 Use the resources provided in the national AIDS control program
- E.5 Evaluate the activities of the national AIDS control program

Results

I-TECH is providing ongoing assistance and faculty development focused on student assessment, and will be working with the national committee to modify national exams in the future. Faculty will have the responsibility of developing exercises to address the required objectives and creating assessment tools to demonstrate that their graduates have met the objectives.

This activity brought different administrators, nurse leaders, and faculty from four geographically dispersed nursing schools to collaborate on a shared goal using a process that could be easily replicated to integrate any new topic in a resource-constrained, pre-service institution. It is hoped that this activity provided stakeholders with the experience, skills, and motivation to strengthen other domains of the pre-service nursing curriculum as well as improve the synchronization of didactic and practical training, and develop standardized competency-based examinations for nursing licensure in Haiti.

National Nursing HIV/AIDS Curriculum



Contact

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About I-TECH

I-TECH is a collaboration between the University of Washington and University of California, San Francisco, and was established by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Web: www.go2itech.org



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