

DEVELOPING ACTION PLANS (FOR STRENGTHENED PUBLIC EYE HEALTH SERVICES)

Background

The availability of well-structured, approved and adequately resourced district action plans is critical for successful delivery of eye care services, as they can be used as road maps for resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities to reduce the burden of vision loss in low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

What is the aim of the course?

The “Developing action plans” (SPHS DAP) course is aimed at training participants to develop actions plan to address the causes of vision loss in their health service unit (district, region, province, or other demarcation) in a context-sensitive, facilitative, workshop environment.

During this 5-day intense contact event, course participants will be assisted and supported to develop action plans for eye care for the participant’s preferred “health service unit”, complete with budget, human resource strategy, quality, risk and monitoring frameworks, based on regional and national strategies, to address the causes of vision loss in their settings.

Who can participate?

The Developing Action Plans (DAP) course for Strengthened Public Health Services (SPHS) is intended for people working in prevention of blindness programmes in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). The course is targeted for clinicians, educators, researchers or programme / project managers, coordinators, and administrators responsible for delivery of public eye health care services in LMICs.

How is the course structured?

The SPHS-DAP contact course in contact mode (5 days in March) and in online over 8 weekly sessions, with each session (details in box alongside) comprising of a video lecture, a slide presentation, reading materials, and individual exercises to be completed in the time between the weekly sessions.

Before the workshop, participants will perform a Rapid Appraisal of Eye Care Services, which will be used as baseline information for the planning activities. During the workshop, participants will be guided to access and utilize core information and resources needed to develop their action plans.

As a post-activity, participants will obtain evaluative feedback on the action plans they developed.

Provisional schedule

Pre-activity	Rapid Appraisal of Eye Care Services (RAECS)
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	Aspects covered
Day 1: Weeks 1-2	1. Basic principles and application of strategic planning 2. Introduction to IAPB’s Integrated People-centred Eye Care strategy
Day 2 Week 3	3. Situational analysis (using findings from participants’ RAECS submissions)
Day 3 Weeks 4-5	4. Action planning: foundations of planning
Day 4 Weeks 6-7	5. Action planning: instruments used in planning
Day 5 Week 8	6. Marketing for implementation

Post-activity	Review of participants’ action plans
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Which teaching methods are used?

Faculty engage with participants through didactic lectures to cover the basic principles of the topics, supported by additional learning resources. The concepts are elaborated with examples, exercises, interactive discussions, quizzes, and further readings, before participants are required to complete individual and group assignments to apply the learnings.

What is the principal output of the training?

The principal output of the training is a one-year action plan, including a log-frame, budget, human resource strategy and monitoring frameworks for financial, risk and quality management. With proper marketing and resource mobilization, these plans can be ready for implementation. responsibility to plan and manage real-life eye care programmes.

When is the course offered?

The course is offered in contact mode, from 19 to 23 February 2024 (5 days). An online, self-administered version of the course starts in October.

Which assessment methods?

Formative assessments will take place during the contact period with plenary and online quizzes, short individual and group exercises and a take-home assignment. Participants' homework is reviewed and with feedback, returned as formative and summative assessments. An aggregate mark of 50% constitutes successful completion of the course.

Who offers the course?

The course is offered by the Community Eye Health Institute (CEHI) in the Division of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Health Sciences, at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. The course faculty possess expertise in project management, public health, advocacy, health promotion, health professional education and health programme management and leadership.

What type of certification?

Qualifying participants will receive a **Certificate of completion**, from UCT-CEHI. **Continuous Professional Development** (CPD) points are available for fee-paying participants, if required.

What are the costs involved?

1. No fee is payable for the Pre-activity. All participants should do this.
2. To complete the full course, a total fee of \$500 is payable. A 20% reduction of fees is applicable if more than 2 applicants enrol from the same (fee-paying) organisation.
3. Self-paying participants from sub-Saharan African countries are eligible for full or partial fee-waiver.
4. For the contact version of the course, travel and accommodation costs to and from Cape Town, South Africa, should be adequately budgeted for.
5. Costs of travel to and from Cape Town, accommodation and meals may apply.

The training venue is located at UCT-CEHI in Cape Town, South Africa.

How can I apply?

Complete the embedded Feedback form on <https://health.uct.ac.za/cehi/education/strengthening-public-eye-health-services-sphs-training-offered>, with comments and submit. You will be provided the required information and a link for application.