

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)
	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 17 to 21 March, from 09:00 to 16:00. No online version of the course is currently available.

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. The full cost of the course is ZAR5000. Organisations are entitled to 10% discount when enrolling 5 or more participants. UCT staff are entitled to a 25% discount, i.e., ZAR3750. All currently registered postgraduate students, and graduate alumni from UCT, UWC, CPUT, and US are entitled to a 50% discount i.e., ZAR2500. Foreign currency payments should return the relevant ZAR amounts.
2. Current incumbents of the UCT-CEHI Volunteer Internship Programme are entitled to a 100% fee waiver.

The training venue is situated at UCT-CEHI, H53, Old Main Building, Groote Schuur Hospital, Main Road, OBSERVATORY in Cape Town, South Africa.

How can I apply?

Click on this link to access the SPHS training site: [SPHS-DAP Application form](#). Navigate to the "Submit an application form" tab after having determined which course(s) you want to apply for. Final information about course selection: 31 January.