



# STRENGTHENING FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN KENYA: AN eHEALTH APPROACH TO EXCELLENCE

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## PARTNERSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE

The Capacity Kenya project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development, is currently working with the Ministry of Medical Services and the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation to better coordinate national health training systems and programs to support the development of pre-service and in-service education and continuing professional development for health workers.

A goal of this partnership is to help ensure that Kenya's health workforce has the requisite competencies necessary to successfully deliver the Kenya essential package for health (KEPH).

Capacity Kenya has partnered with the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC) to develop the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) training at KMTTC Kitui. KMTTC, a middle-level pre-service training institution, plays a key role in the health sector by providing training of competent health cadres who deliver the KEPH at all health sector levels. The CoE's purpose is to strengthen FP/RH services in Kenya by enhancing the quality of training for nursing and clinical medicine students in public, private, and faith-based organizations.



**From left: Jemima Kyalo (KMTTC), Ruth Maithya (AMREF), and Sonda Oppewal (UNC School of Nursing) peruse a manual for humanistic models at the skills lab.**

## Centre of Excellence in Family Planning and Reproductive Health



**Winfred Sila, KMTTC Kitui faculty member, inspects humanistic baby models at the skills lab.**

The KMTTC Kitui CoE was officially launched on April 21, 2011. The high-level event, officiated by the Minister for Medical Services, brought together stakeholders including development partners, ministries of health, the East Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) Health Community Secretariat—which was instrumental in the formative stages of the CoE's conceptualization—and the private sector.

Through the use of practical skills-building approaches, the KMTTC Kitui CoE supports faculty in identifying, developing, and applying innovative teaching methodologies in the area of FP/RH service delivery.

The CoE is also expected to support reproductive eHealth workshops, conferences, and distance learning in the region (including ECSA) and to serve as a model for replication throughout Kenya and beyond.

## CAPACITY KENYA'S SUPPORT TO KMTC KITUI

### Infrastructure Support

Capacity Kenya has supported KMTC Kitui to:

- Install a local area network, information and communication technology (ICT) equipment, and furniture to strengthen KMTC Kitui's resource center (computer laboratory)
- Upgrade the skills lab by setting up teaching tools such as training simulators, mannequins, and other humanistic models
- Install a power generator to provide electricity for the CoE during power outages.

### Capacity Building for Faculty and Clinical Preceptors

Capacity Kenya has supported KMTC Kitui faculty to:

- Build capacity to use innovative teaching methodologies, including eLearning, in the delivery of the FP/RH modules by training 14 faculty members on the use of ICT in teaching and content conversion (African Medical and Research Foundation ICT trainings)
- Develop a simple monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of the skills laboratory as a learning method for students
- Assess curriculum and faculty needs to identify FP/RH training gaps
- Revise the FP/RH curriculum into a format appropriate for distance learning and conversion into eContent
- Train 18 faculty members and 5 preceptors to use IntraHealth's Performance Improvement approach to improve teaching and clinical supervisory skills
- Train 17 KMTC Kitui faculty members, including nursing instructors, in the utilization of mannequins, simulators, and other equipment to improve instructional methods and build skills for students in FP/RH.



**From left: Darlene Baker and Sonda Oppewal, both of the UNC School of Nursing, present a certificate to Jemimah Kyalo after KMTC Kitui faculty members completed skills lab training.**

With these interventions put in place, KMTC Kitui is now in a position to help other training institutions set up a new skills lab as well as teach faculty, students, clinical preceptors, and health sector and regulatory body staff the best practices in nursing. KMTC Kitui can now take the lead in rolling out the skills lab model not only to other KMTC campuses but also to other public, private, and faith-based training institutions. Currently, 278 students are using the eLearning FP/RH module, resource center, and the newly equipped skills lab.



**The new skills lab at KMTC Kitui is equipped with modern simulators, mannequins, and other humanistic models.**

## NEXT STEPS

The CoE will support identification, development, and application of innovative teaching methodologies in the area of FP/RH service delivery. The Capacity Kenya project will partner with the Ministry of Health Division of Reproductive Health to train KMTC Kitui faculty on how to mentor and coach health workers in the Kitui catchment area and train other KMTC faculty on FP/RH skills enhancement for placement and certification. In partnership with AMREF, the project will also train KMTC faculty on mobile learning (mLearning) and virtual classroom applications to complement eLearning.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Additional information on the project, including activities and results are available at [www.capacitykenya.org](http://www.capacitykenya.org).