

Virtual Learning and Knowledge Exchange

K4Health™

Knowledge for Health



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K4Health facilitates virtual knowledge exchange and learning among public health organizations and professionals at global, regional, and national levels to develop and support eLearning courses, communities of practice, and eForums.

We provide the following services to help field programs and local organizations meet the growing demand for timely and evidence-based knowledge:

- Convert existing material into formats appropriate for eLearning courses;
- Guide organizations in choosing among a range of platform solutions to best meet their needs;
- Train course authors to create their own courses;
- Work with organizations and teach staff to build their own eLearning courses and platforms;
- Work with organizations to train staff to create and manage virtual communities of practice; and
- Integrate eLearning and communities of practice.

Benefits of eLearning

The focus of eLearning is on knowledge transfer. Learners access courses or programs when it is most convenient for them and can complete courses at their own pace.

Uses of distance learning include:

- Providing continuing education for professionals interested in health issues;
- Keeping learners up-to-date on state-of-the-art technical content on key public health topics;
- Demonstrating how learners can apply evidence-based information to real-life situations;
- Supplementing existing training programs or replacing expensive training methods; and
- Orienting new hires on agency or donor guidelines.

Benefits of eForums

Using the Implementing Best Practices (IBP) Knowledge Gateway, K4Health conducts online discussion forums to enhance dialogue on current public health hot topics and inform the production and utilization of K4Health products and services. The IBP Knowledge Gateway has over 14,000 members from 200 countries.

These opportunities for virtual knowledge exchange encourage collaboration among organizations and professionals.

Current eLearning Offerings

K4Health currently has several eLearning offerings—all focused on imparting knowledge to a wider base than trainings allow. K4Health course developers work with technical experts to develop high quality courses on a variety of public health and development topics for USAID's Global Health eLearning Center (www.globalhealthlearning.org). In addition, K4Health develops its own courses related to knowledge management topics, such as online communities of practice. For more information, see: www.k4health.org/e-learning/courses.

Online communities of practice and discussion forums allow for:

- Increased knowledge sharing and promotion of best practices;
- Enhanced collaboration;
- Reduction of duplicated efforts; and, in turn,
- Improved health outcomes.



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Online communities of practice and online discussions forums have been used for pre-service education training, the development of family planning and reproductive health guidelines, the promotion of standardized best practices, and as part of a blended learning approach to complement eLearning courses.

Current eForum Offerings

Members of the IBP Knowledge Gateway (www.knowledge-gateway.org/) can join over 300 communities of practice organized by topic. For example, in the Postpartum Family Planning Community over 650 members from 71 countries exchange information, tools, and resources related to postpartum family planning.

Members of the IBP Knowledge Gateway also are invited to join global discussion forums on issues related to health and development. Global discussion forums focus on specific technical themes and last for a limited period of time. They are led by experts in the field and allow you to add your opinions and experience to the discussion.

Contact

If you have any questions or comments, contact the team at virtualexchange@k4health.org.



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