

K4Health eLearning Approaches

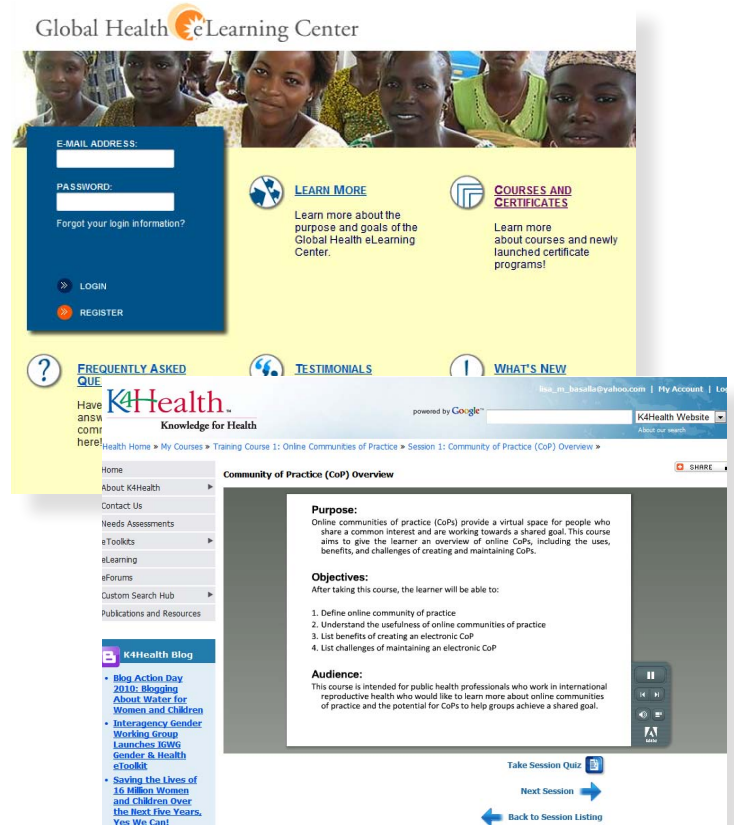
October 2010

Transferring Knowledge and Building Skills

Introduction

The Knowledge for Health (K4Health) Project facilitates virtual knowledge exchange and learning among public health professionals at global, regional, and national levels. The mission of K4Health, a partnership between the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs (JHU/CCP), FHI, and Management Sciences for Health (MSH), is to increase the use and dissemination of evidence-based, accurate and up-to-date information to improve family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) services and outcomes in developing countries.

eLearning is integral to achieving these goals. eLearning encompasses all forms of electronically supported learning and teaching and includes Web- and computer-based learning, virtual classroom opportunities, and online workspaces for discussion and collaboration. Effective eLearning enhances the learning environment, spreads knowledge to diverse audiences, and engages participants more efficiently and cost-effectively than traditional approaches.



K4Health's eLearning activities

Since 2005, K4Health has been managing **USAID's Global Health eLearning (GHeL) Center** (www.globalhealthlearning.org). The GHeL Center is a custom eLearning Web site, designed in response to repeated requests from field staff for access to technical public health information. Once learners register with the site, they have free access to all courses available in addition to access to nine new certificate programs which enable learners to receive a certificate for successfully completing a series of courses in a specific technical or programmatic area. This helps learners focus their study and expand their knowledge in key public health areas. Learners work through courses at their own pace. Courses facilitate learning by presenting basic knowledge and information on a variety of key public health areas to individual learners through a series of logically organized modules, each with its own pre- and post-tests, case studies, resources, and glossary. Learners are required to score at least 85% on a final exam in order to pass a course.

Through its experience managing GHeL, K4Health has become a leader in the area of global public health eLearning. K4Health now offers its partners a full package of eLearning services, including its own eLearning platform to house original, interactive courses that deliver technical content and organizational guidance.

The **K4Health eLearning Web platform** (www.k4health.org/trainings) allows presentations from face-to-face learning to be converted into narrated online courses using open source software and Flash technology. Learners still have a chance to check their knowledge with quizzes after each module and take a final exam. This platform allows greater flexibility in terms of instructional design and is better suited for content that is based on organizational guidance. For example, the International Programs Center of the U.S. Census Bureau is using the K4Health eLearning platform to create courses for professionals in developing countries who are involved in planning and conducting censuses.

How can K4Health help you?

K4Health has developed partnerships with many organizations in order to create engaging, up-to-date eLearning courses, such as partnerships with Abt Associates, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), EngenderHealth, ICF Macro, Jhpiego, MSH, MEASURE Evaluation, Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to name a few.

Among its partners in the field are the Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS). K4Health helped build the capacity of SAfAIDS staff to develop tailored eLearning courses hosted on their own website.

K4Health can help to create courses that combine technical content with instructional design elements, best practices, and case studies. It provides the following services to help field programs and local organizations meet the growing demand for timely and evidence-based knowledge:

- eLearning courses that are easily accessible in low-bandwidth settings;
- Conversion of existing material into formats appropriate for engaging eLearning courses;
- Development of customized platforms to host eLearning courses;
- Training of course authors to create their own courses;
- Helping organizations teach their staff to build their own eLearning courses and platforms;
- Working with organizations to train staff to create and manage virtual communities of practice for mentorship opportunities following eLearning courses; and
- Integrating eLearning with communities of practice and eForums.

To learn more about K4Health eLearning services, contact the team at virtualexchange@k4health.org.

Why eLearning?

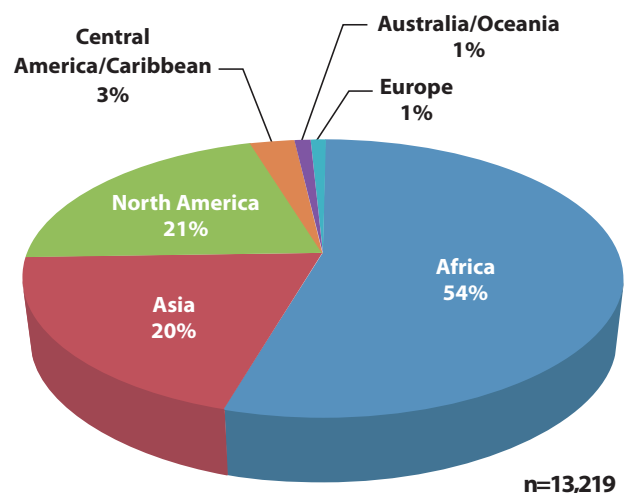
More than half of developing countries do not have postgraduate public health programs. eLearning methodologies are especially useful in such countries with limited higher education opportunities.

Incorporating eLearning into an organization's capabilities can expand the reach of its information and target audiences that have limited access to traditional education and training. It can also provide a cost-effective way to train staff around the world. Learners can access courses or programs when it is most convenient for them and complete courses at their own pace—an ideal situation for busy professionals.

Benefits of eLearning

- Addresses specific training needs and learning styles, allowing individuals to learn in a range of ways utilizing quizzes and case studies.
- Allows learners to assess their knowledge before and after training depending on the model chosen.
- Delivers training right to the desktop, online or offline, making it easier to incorporate learning into individual schedules. For example, offline versions of all the GHeL FP-related courses are available on flash drives and CD-ROMs.

Regional Representation of GHeL Certificate Earners



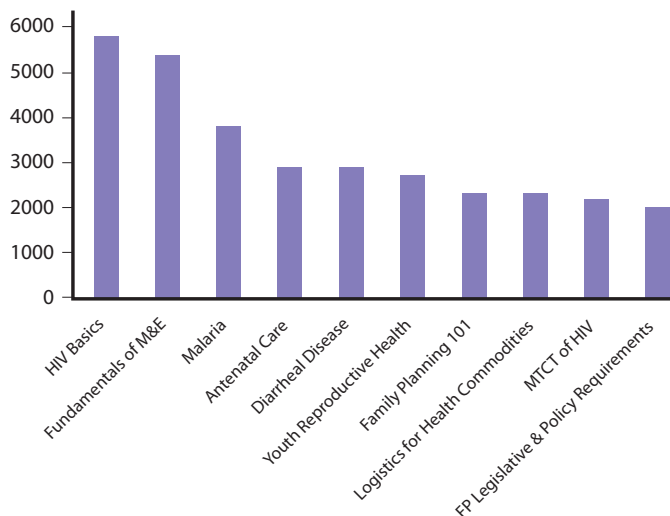
Top 30 Countries by Region Represented by GHeL

eLearning is highly adaptable and can also be effectively combined with other forms of learning. In addition to stand-alone, self-directed courses, programs can be cohort-based and developed in conjunction with a traditional pre-service or in-service classroom course where instructor and participants engage with each other in real time.

Is eLearning a popular choice among learners?

The demand for eLearning is increasing rapidly! For example, over the course of only four years, more than 50,000 people accessed the GHeL Center. In addition, more than 15,000 learners from more than 180 countries earned a total of about 53,000 course certificates. Most of those learners were from Africa (54%) and Asia (20%). The most popular courses included HIV Basics, Fundamentals of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), and Malaria, to name a few.

Number of Certificates by the 10 Most Popular Courses



What learners say about eLearning ...

Clear, concise information that I could access during my free time (in the middle of the night)...I am too busy during the day to focus on learning key data collection issues.

-Learner from Nigeria

Good to spend the short period of time to get knowledge from this web access.

- Learner from Cambodia

Acquisition of certificate within hours.

- Learner from Uganda

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Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Knowledge for Health project is implemented by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs, FHI, and Management Sciences for Health.

Available Courses:

Antenatal Care	HIV/AIDS Surveillance
Antimicrobial Resistance Part 1	Hormonal Methods of Contraception
Cervical Cancer Prevention (Low-Resource Settings)	Human Resources for Health (HRH) Basics
Commercial Private Health Sector Basics	Immunization Essentials
Community-Based Family Planning	IUD
Data Quality	Logistics for Health Commodities
Diarrheal Disease	M&E Frameworks for HIV/AIDS Programs
Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care	M&E Fundamentals
Essential Newborn Care	Malaria
Family Planning 101	Malaria in Pregnancy
Family Planning Counseling	Maternal Survival - Programming Issues
Family Planning Legislative and Policy Requirements (Updated)	Mother-To-Child-Transmission of HIV
Family Planning Programming--Elements of Success	Newborn Sepsis
Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting	Pneumonia
Fostering Change in Health Services	Population, Health, and Environment Basics
FP/RH for People Living with HIV	Postpartum Care
Gender and Reproductive Health	Postpartum Family Planning
Healthy Business	Preventing Postpartum Hemorrhage
HIV Basics (Part 1)	Standard Days Method
HIV Stigma and Discrimination	Tuberculosis - Advanced Concepts
	Tuberculosis Basics
	Youth Reproductive Health