

SETTING UP INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA - A ZIMBABWEAN EXPERIENCE

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INTRODUCTION

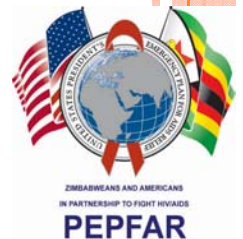
- Education plays an important role in the outcome of Infection prevention and control (IPC) training programs
- The basic principles of IPC such as hand hygiene require all health workers to consider IPC as integral part of their lives
- IPC training considered part of clinical practice and usually is taught after the students have completed most of their undergraduate training
- IPC necessitates adult education therefore faces challenges of changing practice which has been engraved for years



SETTING UP AN EDUCATIONAL IPC PROGRAM

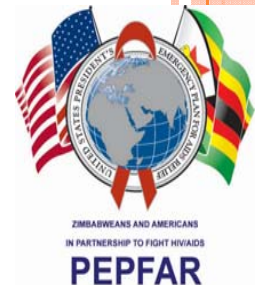
Baseline assessment is the first step as it guides the development of a site specific educational program. It should cover the following:

- Extent of Health Care Associated Infections (HCAI).
- Level of existing knowledge among health professionals
- Availability of a surveillance program and method of collecting data
- Availability of IPC policies and guidelines, IPC committees , IPC focal person
- Level and extent of IPC training/ education provided to all health workers
- Results of the baseline assessment used to develop training curriculum



CHALLENGES TO SETTING UP AN IPC EDUCATION PROGRAM

- Limited time allocated for IPC
- Outdated IPC Policies
- Limited resources
- Staff attrition and multi tasking
- IPC considered nursing domain What about other HCWs?
- Insufficient commitment of Health Facility managers to strengthening Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)
- Inadequate staffing & training of IPC Focal Persons
- Failure to relate education to practice



STRUCTURE OF IPC EDUCATION IN AFRICA

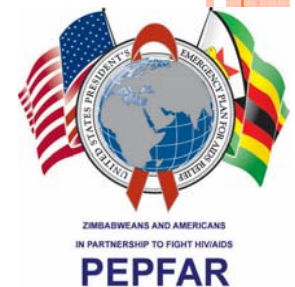
University of Stellenbosch offers the following:

- Msc In IPC
- PDIC
- 6 month Fundamentals course
- 5 day courses for HCW and Health facility managers

Other courses are available:

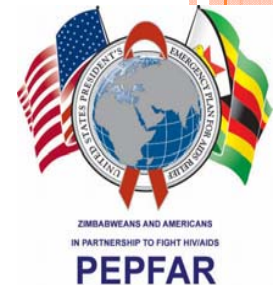
Witwatersrand University and KwaZulu Natal at post graduate level.

- Other centres offering IPC certificates: Net Care, Life healthcare and MediClinic hospital group
- Infection control associations e.g. ICASSA,



SETTING UP IPC EDUCATION PROGRAM IN ZIMBABWE

- The Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) with support from various partners has made tremendous strides in the strengthening of health delivery and improving quality of care in the last 2 years
- Adequate knowledge and education in infection prevention and control (IPC) is an important component of quality health care



REPORT OF THE INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED IN 33 HEALTH FACILITIES IN 2010; MOHCW/CDC

Strengths

- Highly-motivated clinical staff
- Designated IPC persons
- IPC Committees
- SOPs for some procedures
- Enthusiasm among health facility managers

Weaknesses

- No updated IPC Manuals
- Lack of role models
- IPC training done on ad hoc basis
- Lack of basic supplies e.g soap, hand towels, alcohol hand rub, bins, PPE etc
- Overcrowding in OI and OPD areas
- Weak surveillance systems
- IPC education in health professional training schools poor
- Inadequate IPC knowledge among HCW interviewed

Opportunities

- Availability of funds for renovations from Min of Finance, local authorities and donors
- Health staff attend local, regional and international conferences on IPC – opportunities to acquire knowledge
- Health workers interviewed in support of IPC program

Threats

- Frequent power cuts
- Erratic water supplies or no running water at all in some institutions
- Inadequate and deteriorating infrastructure

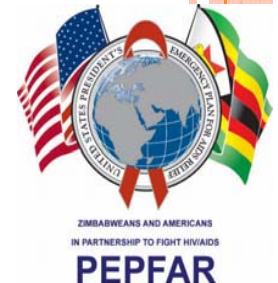
Strengthening IPC Education in Zimbabwe through ZIPCOP



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WHAT IS ZIPCOP

- A five-year project (2011-2016) **to support the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MOHCW) to Strengthen Infection Control and Prevention in Health Care Facilities in Zimbabwe**
- Cooperative Agreement with Centers for Disease Control (CDC-USA) under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) (\$5 million over 5 years).
- MOHCW Implementing Partners are:
 - BRTI
 - Infection Control Association of Zimbabwe
 - Management Sciences for Health, USA



OBJECTIVES OF ZIPCOP

1. Development and dissemination of a national strategic plan and monitoring and evaluation system for infection prevention and control.
2. **Provision (and strengthening) of pre- and in-service training on infection prevention and control (IPC) to health workers including those operating in communities**
3. Development of infection control plans for at least 100 facilities.



OBJECTIVES OF ZIPCOP

1. Renovation of at least 10 health facilities to improve infection control.
2. Supporting the provision of post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to 100% of health care workers exposed to HIV in the 100 facilities that are supported.
3. Provision of personal protective equipment to the 100 facilities supported in development of IPC plans



PRE SERVICE IPC EDUCATION STRATEGY 1

○ Nurse training :

- **Gaps identified through evaluation by Nurses curriculum committee**
 - Outdated IPC information
 - Lack of understanding of routes of transmission of infection
 - Inappropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment

○ Action:

- Additional input in IPC identified and introduced
- Training of tutors + clinical instructors in basic IPC (2 workshops held to strengthen Preservice education)
- Process in progress for submission of amendments to Zimbabwe Nurses Council begun
- Introduction of IPC education for post basic courses Diplomas in Nursing Administration and Community Nursing



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PRE SERVICE IPC EDUCATION STRATEGY 2

Evaluation of IPC Education at College of Health Sciences-University Zimbabwe(CHS-UZ)

- **Identified Gaps/areas to strengthen in IPC knowledge**
 - Gaps in practical expertise: Loss of experienced nurses and doctors has resulted in inadequate supervision for invasive procedures on the ward
 - Most topics based on theory of clinical activity
- **Action :**
 - Establishment of a CHS-IPC curriculum committee
 - Baseline survey
 - Areas strengthened include:
 - a) Clinical introductory course (completed)
 - b) IPC practical training for BSc Physiotherapy and Occ. Therapy

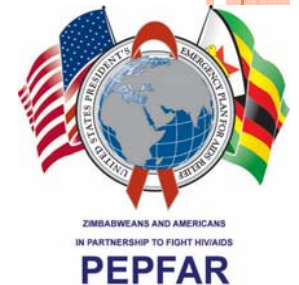
Development of training to strengthen:

- a) mentorship in the clinical area
- b) training in basic invasive procedures
- c) Review and modify procedures module for MBChB V, interns and MMed in collaboration with MEPI (NECTAR) program and IFIC funding



TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOPS (TTT)

- Based on a 2-week module adopted from the Unit for Infection Prevention and Control (UIPC) Stellenbosch University (SUN), to develop a team of trainers with representatives from each of the provinces
- The course equips healthcare workers with basic understanding and appreciation of infection prevention and control in resource limited settings.
- The course is structured in 2 parts; the first part provides basic principles of IPC in health care settings. Part 2 provides participants with skills to advocate and mobilise support for IPC and skills to train others
- 72 nurses trained as trainer of trainers so far and 50 have successfully completed



PROVINCIAL TRAINING

- Three-day workshop in Basic IPC in each of the ten Provinces (District and Mission Hospitals)

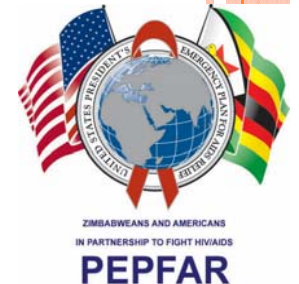
The primary aim of the training is:

- to build capacity, provide knowledge and skills in IPC for health providers at various levels within the Province that includes district Hospitals, Rural Health Centres and Community level
- Promote a safe environment for patients, staff and visitors and improve the quality of care standards in health institutions and Home Based Care



HEALTH FACILITY MANAGERS SENSITIZATION

- One-day IPC sensitization conducted at the end of each provincial workshop.
- Aim is to familiarize health facility managers with knowledge on evidence based cost effective programs to improve quality of care at health facility level
- Participation in risk assessment seen to increase comprehension of IPC requirements and change attitudes
- Participants include all health facility managers i.e. Chief executive officers, Clinical Directors , Accountants. Administrators, Doctors, Nurses

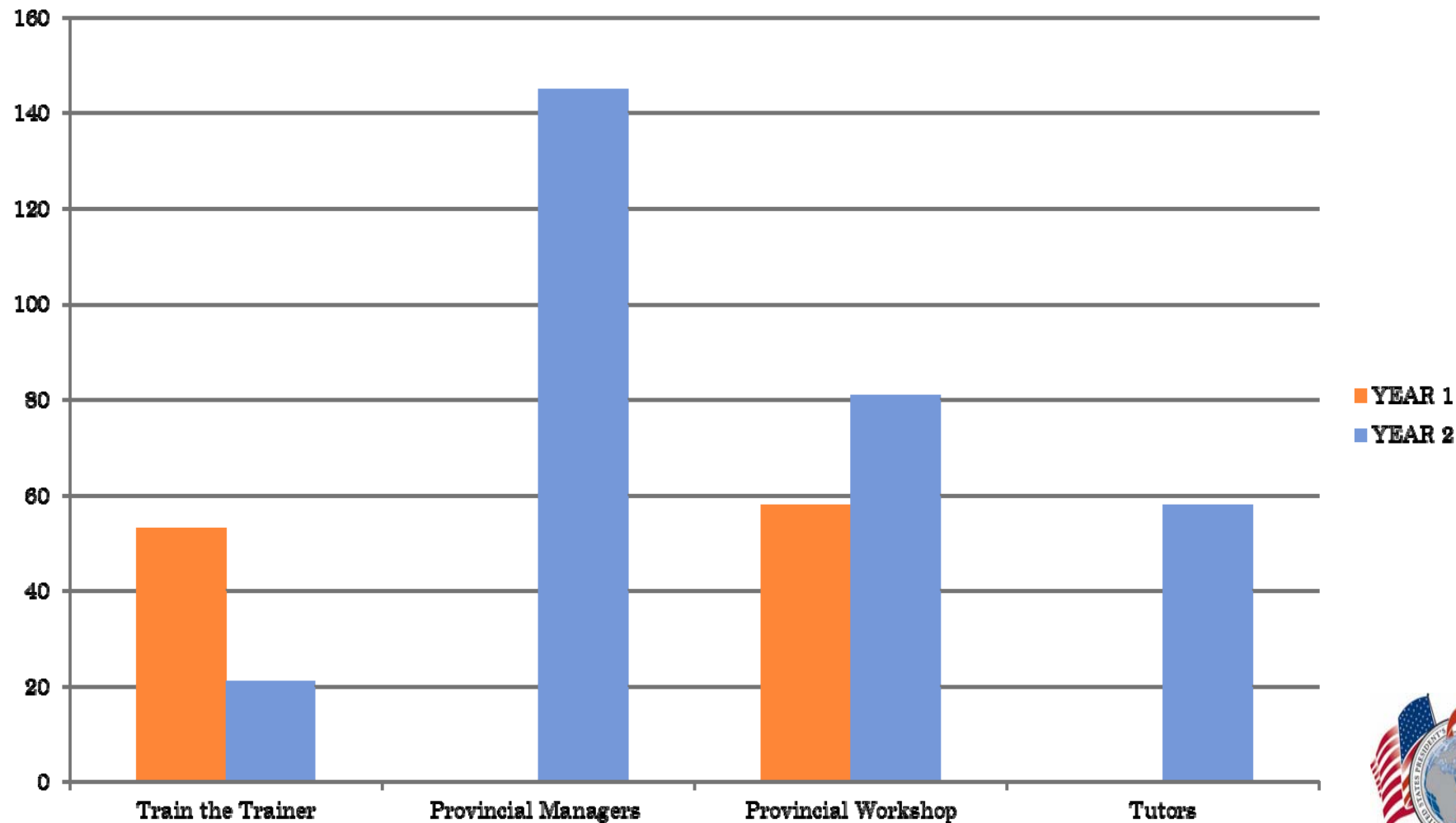


STRENGTHENING IPC EDUCATION THROUGH THE INFECTION CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE (ICAZ)

- To encourage exchange of information and ideas on control of infection in Zimbabwe as well as maintain links with other regional infection control associations.
- Encourage research into infection control and provide a forum for the presentation of results from such programs.
- To organize continuing Education in Infection Control through seminars, workshops discussion groups.
- Setting up of diploma/certificate course in IPC



SUMMARY OF IPC TRAINING CONDUCTED



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MONITORING APPLICATION OF IPC KNOWLEDGE

Through mentorship:

- Strengthen IPC practices by providing continuing education to HCWs
- Strengthen capacity building and identifying areas for improvement.
- Follow up application of theory into practice
- Inclusion of practical sessions to assist in application
- Use of a tool to capture **output of training** (confidence), **outcome** (no. of health workers trained) and **impact** (change in practice)



LESSONS LEARNT

- Pedagogical approach to IPC education not recommended
- Buy in by health facility managers
- Mentorship strategy to be reviewed to monitor IPC individual skills development and change in IPC Practice
- Pre-service IPC education should be targeted according to professional needs.(involvement of CHS –UZ, training of tutors)
- In service IPC education should be integrated into the already existing training structures (IPC cuts across all programs
- Involvement of health facility managers in selecting cadres for training



I Thank You



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