

THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COURSE ON:

# Strengthening Contemporary School Health, Nutrition and HIV Prevention Programmes

8th - 17th July 2009  
Accra, Ghana



An International Course for Educationalists, Public Health  
Professionals and Community Development Workers



## Introduction

School health and nutrition (SHN) and HIV prevention interventions not only improve children's health but also their cognitive development, learning potential and future life choices. Improving the health of school-age children enables the attainment of **Education for All** and the **Millennium Development Goals**<sup>1</sup>. Whereas previously SHN interventions were seen to be concerned principally with students' health, they are increasingly recognised as central to efforts to ensure that all children can access and attain a quality education – a prerequisite for the eradication of extreme hunger and poverty, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the reduction of child mortality, the improvement of maternal health, and the prevention of HIV, malaria and other diseases<sup>2</sup>.

This international, ten-day course in **Strengthening School Health, Nutrition and HIV Prevention Programmes** has been successfully developed, continuously refined and delivered in East Africa for the last four years. In 2008, the course was attended by representatives from the Ministries of Education and Health, UN agencies and civil society organisations of nine countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

To mark its 5th anniversary, the course is moving to Ghana in 2009. As the inaugural West African course, it holds enormous potential to expand the pool of countries accessing first class SHN expertise, and to strengthen cross regional networking. It is to be run jointly by the **Eastern and Southern Africa Centre of International Parasite Control**, (ESACIPAC) Kenya, the **Partnership for Child Development**, (PCD) UK and the **West African Centre for International Parasite Control**, (WACIPAC) Ghana.

### What does the course focus on?

Interactive and participatory, this dynamic annual course aims to strengthen the capacity of the health and education sectors to respond effectively to the needs of school-age populations at the country level. The course provides educationalists, public health professionals and community development workers from all over Africa and beyond with an up-to-date, comprehensive introduction to concepts and current practices in improving the health, nutrition and education of schoolchildren. Participants are able to strengthen their skills, access the latest research and knowledge, form new partnerships, exchange experiences, address their country-specific needs, enhance their existing SHN and HIV activities, and use a results-based planning process to develop SHN and HIV implementation plans and training manuals.

Using the FRESH<sup>3</sup> framework, traditional and contemporary health and nutrition issues that affect the learning and educational outcomes of school-age children are discussed and prioritized. The cost-effectiveness, sustainability and monitoring and evaluation of programmes are addressed. A well designed field visit illustrates the challenges faced by schools, communities and stakeholders, and the feasibility of improvements will be examined.

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<sup>1</sup> World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal in 2000

<sup>2</sup> Millennium Development Goals 1,3,4,5 &6

<sup>3</sup> FRESH (Focusing Resources on Effective School Health) is an inter-agency initiative developed by UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank, launched at the Dakar Education Forum, 2000, which incorporates the experience and expertise of these and other agencies and organizations (including PCD). The FRESH framework captures best practice from programme experiences for the design and implementation of effective SHN programmes.

## Who should attend this course?

The course has been designed to serve the needs of:

- Education, public health and community development professionals.
- Project managers with a particular focus on programming in low income countries.

Preference for course participation will be given to current practitioners.

## Why should I attend this course?

The three key **strengths** of the course lie in:

1. The *facilitation* by current practitioners with recognized international and regional expertise in SHN.
2. The exceptional *opportunity the course provides as an annual forum* for information exchange, debate and continued learning among programme managers and implementers engaged in SHN programmes.
3. The *inclusion* of emerging issues and trends, identified by participants and facilitators, ensures that the course remains relevant and appropriate.

The principal **objective** of the course is to develop country-specific response plans reflecting all aspects of the FRESH framework. Technical support and follow up is provided to participating countries to ensure these plans are subsequently and successfully implemented. This support forms part of ongoing development partner initiatives on the continent that seek to harmonize SHN and HIV activities and sub-regional communication and networks.

## Where is the course being held?

The course will be held from 8th – 17th July 2009 at the Noguchi Conference Rooms, WACIPAC, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra.

The course will be conducted in English throughout. Participants will have access to lecture theatres, a library and a computer laboratory with e-mail and internet facilities.

## How do I register?

The course fee of \$1,500 per participant includes tuition, training materials, accommodation, meals and a welcoming reception. Airfare, transit and personal expenses are the responsibility of the participant. As places are limited and competition is expected to be intense, it is advisable to book early to reserve a place on this course.

It is possible to download a registration form from [www.child-development.org](http://www.child-development.org) or email [a.woolnough@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.woolnough@imperial.ac.uk). All submitted course registration forms will be acknowledged.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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**The Eastern and Southern Africa Centre of International Parasite Control (ESACIPAC)** and the **West African Centre for International Parasite Control (WACIPAC)** were established in 2001 and 2004, respectively, with the support of the Japanese Government via the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and under the Global Parasite Control Initiative (Hashimoto Initiative). The Hashimoto Initiative is an international cooperation to control parasitic diseases at the global level, with EASCIPAC and WACIPAC set up as regional reference centres for Eastern and Southern Africa, and West Africa, respectively. ESACIPAC and WACIPAC aim to strengthen research and control programmes on parasitic diseases: by promoting school-based interventions for parasite control, by conducting both basic and operational research into parasites and their control and by conducting training courses for human resource development.

ESACIPAC is based at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in Nairobi and WACIPAC at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) in Accra, Ghana.



[www.esacipac.org](http://www.esacipac.org)  
[www.noguchimedres.org/wacipac](http://www.noguchimedres.org/wacipac)



The **Partnership for Child Development (PCD)** based in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Imperial College London, has over 15 years experience working with governments, civil society, international aid agencies, communities and schools to turn findings of evidence-based research into effective school health policy and large-scale, sustainable programmes.

PCD takes a holistic approach to address important health and nutrition issues of school-age children that affect their educational outcomes, including HIV, parasitic infections (for example, malaria and worms), malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and the school environment.

[www.child-development.org](http://www.child-development.org)  
[www.schoolsandhealth.org](http://www.schoolsandhealth.org)

