Today’s biomedical research is conducted by teams of specialists working in different locations, in different organizations, and with different tasks. How can these researchers complete their work together in a systematic way and accomplish their objectives?
The beginning of an idea

The concept began in 2001 as part of grant funding to researchers in malaria. Researchers from both the south and the north were collaborating on a 5 year grant through the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases and Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (TDR/MIM). There was a critical need for strong organization, planning and management of projects, given the number of collaborators involved, the geographical spread and length of projects.

A training programme for Effective project planning and evaluation in biomedical research was developed by TDR Research Capacity Strengthening and pilot tested in Nigeria (June 2002) and then in Tanzania (June 2003) with TDR grantees as participants, and expanded to include the South African Medical Research Council. It was an exciting 4 days for the 48 researchers who first attended these courses.

What do researchers get out of this training?

**DURING THE COURSE**

- **Project clearly defined**
  Project goal, objectives, measurable indicators and main steps to achieve the objectives.

- **Complete and realistic project development plan**
  Gantt and PERT charts, including activities, milestones, responsible persons, timelines and costs.

- **Effective teamwork**
  Identify and support project team members’ expertise and responsibilities, create communication plan ensuring successful collaborations.

**LONG-TERM BENEFITS**

- **Increased competitiveness for funding**
  Clear project definition and complete development plans are the basis for good proposals.

- **Effective implementation**
  Development plans facilitate implementation, monitoring and rapid decisions.

- **Accurate reporting**
  Regular monitoring based on milestones and indicators make reporting more systematic and accountable.

“*We really enjoyed every moment of the workshop. The course is an eye opener in project planning and management. It has helped our team in assessing and evaluating the progress made so far and in implementing.*”
Sam, Nigeria

“*It makes life easier by showing the milestones to be achieved, which allows proper implementation of the activities.*”
Malebo, Tanzania
Step-by-step approach

**PROJECT PLANNING AND EVALUATION PROCESS**

1a Establish project statement
1b Develop goal, objectives, indicators
1c Outline main steps
2a Develop the WBS (work breakdown structure)
2b Sequence the activities and set timelines
2c Allocate resources
3a Implement/Monitor
3b Evaluate/Report
3c Implement/monitoring

**Phase 1**
Define purpose and scope

**Phase 2**
Planning

**Phase 3**
Implementing/evaluating

**5 modules, 4 days**

- **MODULE 1**
  Good practices in biomedical research
- **MODULE 2**
  Understanding the concept and value of planning
- **MODULE 3**
  Defining the purpose and the scope of the project
- **MODULE 4**
  Establishing the project development plan
- **MODULE 5**
  Implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting

**Learning by doing**

Eighty percent of the course is spent on “hands-on” activities. All participants use their current project as they go through the training, resulting in an effective plan they can put to immediate use.
Expanding the knowledge: join this innovative effort

**A PROGRAM NOW READY FOR WIDER DISTRIBUTION**

*Be a part of building research capacity in your institution, your country, your health system.*

*A train-the-trainer course and manual have been developed so that these skills can be disseminated into any institution or organization through ongoing training by local trainers.*

"The hallmark of investigators exposed to the course are: clear objectives and work plans, timely implementation and reporting and accountability."

Olumide Ogundahunsi, MIM/TDR Task Force Manager

---

UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)

You want to know more?
Please contact:
Beatrice Halpaap, Pharm D
Research Capability Strengthening
Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Disease (TDR)
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
tel +41 22 791 19 55
fax +41 22 791 48 54
email halpaapb@who.int
www.who.int/tdr