



CAPSTONE

Non-Communicable Diseases
Collaboration in West Africa

CAPacity Strengthening of Transdisciplinary education for nON-communicable disease care in WEST Africa (CAPSTONE)

Report of the Second CAPSTONE Stakeholders Meeting

Date: April 24, 2025

Time: 9:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Venue: Peace Building Conference Room, Kanifing Campus, MDI Road

Attendance: 28 participants

The CAPSTONE Stakeholders Meeting was convened to present the draft curriculum for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) short courses focused on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and to gather feedback from key stakeholders on the relevance and suitability of the curriculum for the Gambian healthcare context.

The meeting officially started at 9:45 AM with a brief welcome and an overview of the CAPSTONE project, outlining its aim to strengthen the capacity of higher education institutions in The Gambia and Ghana to deliver transdisciplinary, challenge-based learning programs for comprehensive NCD care. The purpose of the meeting was clearly communicated—to engage stakeholders in reviewing and refining the draft curriculum to ensure it meets national healthcare needs.

Following the introduction, the draft curriculum for the CPD courses was presented. Participants were taken through the six proposed courses, focusing on their objectives,

structure, and intended learning outcomes. In addition, a presentation was made on the Challenge-Based Learning (CBL) framework, explaining how this innovative educational model would be applied to equip participants with problem-solving and critical thinking skills relevant to NCD care.

Overview of Stakeholder Interests and Clarifications

During the CAPSTONE stakeholders meeting, participants expressed a strong interest in understanding the structure, flexibility, and inclusivity of the proposed NCD short courses.

Stakeholders sought clarification on:

1. **Assessment and Evaluation:** Whether an evaluation or assessment component would be included in the NCD Health Financing curriculum to ensure learning outcomes are measured.
2. **Course Structure and Flexibility:** The possibility of separating NCD Prevention and Management modules to allow participants to enroll in areas most relevant to their roles, given the differing needs of public health officers and clinical staff such as nurses.
3. **Course Duration and Accessibility:** Concerns were raised about whether the proposed 8 hours per day over 5 consecutive days might deter working professionals or those enrolled in other academic programs from participating.
4. **Curriculum Content Expansion:** Suggestions were made to incorporate systems thinking into the curriculum (specifically under WP4) to strengthen participants' strategic and holistic approaches to NCD care.
5. **Inclusivity of Entry Criteria:** Some stakeholders noted that the entry requirements appeared too restrictive, especially for new courses not yet regulated by professional councils, potentially limiting access for interested learners.

6. **Breadth of NCD Topics:** There was a recommendation to consider broadening the scope of the curriculum to cover additional conditions like respiratory diseases (e.g., asthma) and road traffic injuries, which are emerging public health concerns.

Overview of Stakeholder Consensus

During the CAPSTONE stakeholders meeting, participants reached important agreements regarding the structure, delivery, and piloting of the NCD short courses.

The following consensus points were agreed upon:

1. **Eligibility Criteria:** The courses will be open to health workers and allied health workers holding a minimum of a diploma qualification.
2. **Course Duration:** Each course will run for five consecutive days to allow for intensive but manageable learning.
3. **Delivery Format:** The courses will be delivered in a hybrid format, with most sessions conducted face-to-face, supplemented by online components as necessary.
4. **Certification:** Participants who successfully complete the courses will be awarded a Certificate of Competency.
5. **Selection of CPD Courses for Piloting:** Stakeholders prioritized five courses for initial piloting in the following order:
 - a. NCD Epidemiology
 - b. NCD Prevention and Management
 - c. NCD Surveillance and Monitoring
 - d. NCD Digital Health
 - e. NCD Health Financing

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm .

