

COMMUNIQUÉ FROM 2018 ASPHA CONFERENCE JOHANNESBURG: 24 OCTOBER, 2018

Theme: “Transforming and Harmonizing Public Health Trainings and Education in Africa through Postgraduate Public Health Core Competencies Framework”

The 2018 Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa (ASPHA) conference, co-organized with Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), and hosted by the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa from 22nd to 24th October 2018, agreed to develop African public health core competencies to be used by public health training institutions. The core competencies will assist in transforming and harmonizing public health trainings and education in the continent hence resulting in globally competitive public health professionals that can drive the African public health agenda. The meeting brought together over 60 participants from Schools and Departments of Public Health in 17 African countries under the theme “Transforming and harmonizing public health training and education in Africa: need for core competencies”. The meeting was also attended by experts in Public Health from Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific who also shared their institutional experience, which proved to be valuable lessons for proposed ASPHA initiative.

The meeting deliberated and reached a consensus on: working collectively towards the development of an African Public Health core competencies and strengthening public health practice through a collaborative approach with all principal stakeholders (Public Health England, Faculty of Public Health UK, International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH), Association of African Universities); a need to urgently finalize the harmonized core competency framework for Africa with an oversight from an established technical taskforce; and developing an advocacy strategy to intensify awareness, building consensus among key stakeholders of the process and resource mobilization to support the initiative. The list of key competencies identified for the framework include: leadership and management; communication; advocacy; negotiation; organizational change management; systems thinking; policy and planning; diversity and inclusiveness; social determinants of health; and Getting research into policy and practice (GRIPP).

Over the years ASPHA deliberated on having core competencies for Master in public health graduate programme in Africa. Such programmes should take into account factors that have affected public health in Africa in addressing the particular needs of the continent, and assist in reducing the observed high health burden among many countries. The competencies are intended to serve as a resource and guide for those interested in improving the quality and accountability of public health education and training.



About ASPHA

ASPHA's mission is to spearhead excellence in public health practice in Africa, continually adapting to evolving context in the continent, through advocacy, influencing public health policy, research and training to promote health, reduce disease burden and alleviate poverty and by extension sustainable development in Africa. Learn more about ASPHA at: www.asphaafrica.net

About the Africa CDC

The Africa CDC mission is to strengthen Africa's public health institution's capacities, capabilities and partnerships to detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats and outbreaks based on science, policy, and data-driven interventions and programmes.

Learn more at: <http://www.africacdc.org>