



Family Medicine Training Program and Health Systems Resilience in Zambia

Mpundu Makasa¹, Phillip Mubanga² Evaristo Kunka¹ Eric Aghan³, Radiance Ogundipe³, Bassim Birkland^{1,3}



1 University of Zambia, 2 Lusaka Adventist Hospital, 3 Seed Global Health

Introduction

Ministry of Health (MoH) has prioritized Training of Family Physicians (FM)

MoH Vision - to have FM training in 3 out of 4 public universities in the country

Each with a targeted number of Family Physicians to be trained within a given period

University of Zambia introduced FM in 2019

Masters – 4-year program

Only FM program university

30 registrars in the program

Training

Primary Training sites - Level One hospitals/ District level – 2 (with daily bedside clinical mentorship from faculty)

Tertiary Hospital for specialist rotations

Didactics – Mainly in- person & virtual during the COVID 19 pandemic only

Clinical – in & outpatient patient teaching rounds, calls

Workshops - Planned - Registrar-led, need-based e.g. – public health emergency

Access to Supplementary online modules of POCUS/HIV

Family Medicine's contribution

Registrars demonstrated their versatility & resilience at their training sites

They led response to emerging threats & worked as core staff in managing COVID 19, cholera & anthrax

They have taken leadership by training other staff in management of emergencies (often looked to for their expertise & training)

Seed Global Health supported multidisciplinary training, printing of clinical guides & provided medical surgical supplies

Conclusions

Family Medicine has gained recognition by the ministry of Health & the primary care hospitals in last 5 years

It played a key role in all the public health emergencies faced in the country

The need to expand FM has been expressed in Lusaka and beyond

Health security should be incorporated in the curriculum & how to have resilient systems amidst public health emergencies

Strengthening and expanding Family Medicine can help build resilience in health systems

Teaching approach

Hybrid – with approved curriculum

Flexibility to respond on the needs

Workshops held periodically - Topics identified by registrars

Include common conditions & clinical aids/posters developed, also patient education charts

Trainings – Topics identified by faculty & organize trainings e. a Post abortion care.

Way forward

Shifts in disease patterns lead to shifting of health care workers

Family Medicine has shown to be resilient to the shifts given their versatility and adaptability

Explore innovative ways to ensure continuous service provision e.g. telemedicine

Collaborate regionally with other Family Medicine programs to learn best practices

Course names
Fundamental of Family Medicine
Principles and Practice of Family Medicine
Fundamental of Primary Care research
Specialty in Family Medicine Practice of Primary Care Research

