



WORKSHOP EVALUATION REPORT

GFMER Research Workshop, 24-28 October 2016

Geneva



GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

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Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by Dr. Karim Abawi, Dr. Raqibat Idris and Ms. Fionna Poon. Dr. Karim Abawi was the coordinator and main facilitator of the workshop, while Dr. Khalifa Elmusharaf and Dr. Raqibat Idris co-facilitated the workshop sessions. Dr. Karim Abawi and Dr. Khalifa Elmusharaf contributed in reviewing the research projects.

The GFMER appreciates the valuable contribution of the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research for its continuous support, providing the venue for the workshop and teaching research related topics by experts with years of experience in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

The GFMER is also grateful to the Republic and Canton of Geneva, Geneva Welcome Centre and Société coopérative médicale de Beaulieu for their financial support in covering the travel costs and accommodation of the workshop participants in Geneva.

I would like to thank Dr. Lale Say, Dr. Venkatraman Chandra Mouli, Dr. Igor Toskin, Tomas Allen and Dr. Mario Festin for their continuous support to the GFMER.

GFMER expresses its gratitude and thanks to the following persons, who despite their busy schedule and numerous commitments contributed their time in providing quality lectures and technical support at the workshop: Prof. Giuseppe Benagiano, Dr. Chandra Mouli Venkatraman, Dr. Igor Toskin, Dr. Ali Moazzam, Tomas Allen, Dr. Heli Bathija, Dr. Khalifa Elmusharaf, Dr. Mario Festin and Dr. Jane Hirst.

Thanks to Dr. Blaise Bourrit's arrangement and patience for a special field visit during which the participants visited the beautiful Old City of Geneva and tasted the famous Swiss fondue.

Finally, GFMER congratulates the participants of the workshop for completing the course and producing relevant research projects that reflected the health needs in their respective countries.

With the valuable support from our partners we continue our commitment in providing training with the aim that lack of knowledge should not be barrier to quality care provision. We are also committed to strengthen research capacity of health professionals and contribute in making research a local dynamic.

Professor Aldo Campana

Director, GFMER

November 2016

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Background

Since 2003 the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER), in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partner institutions, has organized a training course on sexual and reproductive health research. The course focuses on research methodology and attracts participation of health professionals from different countries and particularly from developing countries.

In order to reach more health professionals, in 2010 GFMER in collaboration with WHO and other partners launched the online course on sexual and reproductive health research. "From Research to Practice: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research" that offers a training package specially developed for those health professionals involved in research, whose access to learning is limited by time, financial resources or other constraints and for whom access to quality education and learning is limited. The program is designed to meet a wide range of contemporary issues in sexual and reproductive health, especially in developing countries. It helps students to better identify the problems related to reproductive and sexual health, it helps to improve the skills of caregivers, and it promotes good practices.

In 2015, the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) successfully implemented the fifth edition of its online training course, with more experience gained from the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 editions.

This course is part of the WHO policy for increasing human resources in the field of sexual and reproductive health, particularly in developing countries. GFMER is mandated to organize the course.

Workshop methodology

In 2015, GFMER successfully implemented the fifth edition of its online training course. In total, 234 individuals attended the course. From this group, 14 participants were chosen to attend an intensive workshop week at the WHO headquarters in Geneva from 24 to 28 October 2016. The participants of the workshop were selected based on their online course performance, completion and quality of their assignments, and the quality of their research protocol. The strict selection ensured that those attending the workshop in Geneva are the most motivated participants of the 2015 online training course.

The workshop in Geneva provided participants with an intensive week of interactive lectures designed to strengthen their protocols, as well as the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with each other and with experts. When deciding on the content of the course, a series of factors were considered: participants' needs, time constraints and available resources. Without repeating information from the online course, the GFMER Research Workshop was organized so that participants could get further training in key components of research protocol planning and development. Many participants had expressed their desire to get extra training in critical appraisal of scientific publications, scientific writing, research ethics and data collection and management. Those requests were prioritized when setting the agenda. The preliminary contents were reviewed with other stakeholders and, once agreed, were finalized for implementation. (See Table 1 for course schedule). The workshop was organized around a series of presentations on selected topics given by highly qualified experts from WHO, GFMER, Oxford University and other partners. The aim of these presentations was to help participants improve the quality and

accuracy of their research protocols as well as to provide them with solid grounding for future research projects.

Open discussion was highly encouraged among participants and their comments and feedback were used on many occasions, as the backbone for many presentations. Handouts of exercises and extra materials were distributed among the participants to actively engage them in discussions and help them follow the presentations. Each presenter devoted several minutes to answer questions and provided participants with contact details for further enquiries.

The workshop culminated in participants' presentations of their own research protocols and substantive feedback on ways they can move their proposed research forward. Peer-review and monitoring of the presentations and discussion of research protocols was carried out not only at the end of the workshop but also after every protocol presentation. To audit the quality of the projects, immediately after a protocol presentation, participants were asked to score their colleague's project on a scale from 1 to 5 (5 being the highest and indicating no further review and 1 the lowest and indicating complete revision of the protocol). Furthermore, at the end of the workshop, participants were invited to fill in a brief end of the workshop evaluation that included both quantitative and qualitative components, and were also awarded with a certificate of completion (sample attached) based on their attendance, participation, presentation and evaluation.

Profile of the Participants

The 14 participants who attended the workshop were selected from a pool of 234 health professionals, who had attended the 2015 online-training. There were 10 women and 4 men from 13 different countries, all of them health professions involved in sexual and reproductive health care provision.

Performance and End-of-the-Workshop Feedback

The overall performance of each participant was calculated based on several factors, including: punctuality and organization, level of participation in discussions, critical thinking (as demonstrated by providing accurate feedback, asking relevant questions, reviewing papers and designing research protocols), degree of engagement in feedbacks and peer-review, ability to present and support research study protocol, cope with pressure and constructive criticism and make amendments and improve quality of work.

Two main conclusions can be reached from the results. Firstly, all the 14 participants scored well on his/her evaluations: on a scale of 1 to 5, with 4.2 being the highest. Secondly, 6 participants scored 4 or higher. As discussed during the workshop, those receiving 4 or higher meant that their proposal could proceed further with minor modifications. A score lower than 4, on the other hand, meant that their proposals needed further revision and modifications (some of them triggered from the feedback obtained at the workshop) before proceeding to the next stage. No participant scored less than 3, which meant that none of the research protocols had to be redesigned or significantly modified.



Appendix

Table 1: Workshop agenda

Date, Time & Venue	Description	Presenters
Day 1 (24 October, Monday), WHO Library		
09:00-10:00	Welcome and introduction (WHO library)	Ian Askew (WHO), Alonso Lormand Maria Jesus (Geneva State), Lale Say (WHO), Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli (WHO), Igor Toskin (WHO), Mario Festin (WHO), Carine Willemin (Geneva Welcome Centre), Christian De Pree (SMB), Aldo Campana (GFMER), Charles-Henry RoCHAT (GFMER), Blaise Bourrit (GFMER), Khalifa Elmusharaf (University of Limerick, Ireland)
	Review of agenda	Karim Abawi (GFMER)
10:00-12:00	WHO Library orientation PubMed – the Einstein method Cooking up systematic reviews: tried and true recipes for success	Thomas Allen (WHO)
Day 1 (24 October, Monday), WHO Library & Salle A		
14:00-15:00	What does not work in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health: A review of evidence on interventions commonly accepted as best practices	Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli (WHO)
15:00-16:00	How to develop a competitive research protocol	Raqibat Idris (GFMER)
16:00-17:00	Ethical issues in reproductive health research	Heli Bathija (GFMER)
Day 2 (25 October, Tuesday), Room M405		
09:00-09:30	Review of agenda, question & answer	Karim Abawi (GFMER)
09:30-11:00	Critical appraisal of the medical literature	Jane Hirst (University of Oxford, UK)
11:15-12:15	Scientific writing	Jane Hirst (University of Oxford, UK)
13:00-17:30	Planning and performing data analysis	Khalifa Elmusharaf (University of Limerick, Ireland)
Day 3 (26 October, Wednesday), Room 505		
08:30-09:30	Review of agenda, open discussion	Karim Abawi (GFMER)
09:30-10:30	Quantitative data collection: Designing a questionnaire	Khalifa Elmusharaf (University of Limerick, Ireland)
10:30-12:00	Ethical considerations in a research protocol (Practical guide)	Karim Abawi (GFMER)
13:00-14:00	Technical updates on WHO work on contraceptive use	Mario Festin (WHO)
14:00-15:00	Qualitative data collection methods	Khalifa Elmusharaf (University of Limerick, Ireland)
15:00-16:00	Behaviour interventions to prevent STI/HIV	Igor Toskin (WHO)
16:00-onwards	Field tour	Blaise Bourrit (GFMER)

Date, Time & Venue	Description	Presenters
Day 4 (27 October, Thursday), Room M605		
09:00-09:30	Review of agenda	Karim Abawi (GFMER)
09:30-10:45	Critical appraisal of research protocol	Ali Moazzam (WHO)
10:45-12:45	Open discussion	Karim Abawi (GFMER)
13:15-14:00	Reproductive health: A new holistic vision	Giuseppe Benagiano (WHO)
Participants' research protocol presentation (questions and peer scoring)		
14:00-14:30	Provision of mobile health consultations in school setting in Cochabamba-Bolivia to improve sexual and reproductive health among adolescents: A pilot study	Kathya Lorena Cordova Pozo - South Group, Cochabamba, Bolivia
14:30-15:00	Vitamin D supplementation during pregnancy and maternal and perinatal outcome - a double blind randomized clinical trial	Rathnamala M. Desai - SDM College of Medical Sciences, Manjushreenagar, Sattur, Dharwad, Karnataka, India
15:00-15:30	The effect of maternal age on pregnancy outcome in women delivered in a private Hospital in Eastern Region of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Hisham Hussein Imam - Faculty of Medicine, Minia University, Egypt
15:30-16:00	The role of health workers in abortion care and post abortion contraception in Zambia	Namakau Nyambe - FHI 360, Lusaka, Zambia
16:00-16:30	Preconception health in Brazil: Risk factors and non-communicable diseases assessment among Brazilian reproductive age women	Mariana Felisbino-Mendes - Nursing School, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil
Day 5 (28 October, Friday), Room M 505 & WHO Library		
Participants' research protocol presentation (questions and peer scoring)		
09:00-09:30	Fertility desire among HIV-infected women of reproductive age attending public hospitals of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Engida Yisma Derby - Addis Ababa University, College of Health Sciences, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
09:30-10:00	Psychological morbidity and quality of life after recurrent spontaneous miscarriages in women and their husbands in Bahrain	Maryam Alaradi - Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Bahrain
10:00-10:30	Exploring perception of Iranian married women regarding to sexual rights: A grounded theory study	Roksana Janghorban - Department of Midwifery, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran
10:30-11:00	Influence of family environment on risky sexual behaviour of in-school adolescents in Oyo State, Nigeria	Adenekan Osiyemi - University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria
11:00-11:30	STIs/HIV prevalence among patients attending GU clinic: A cross-sectional health facility-based study	Valeska Padovese - Genito-Urinary Clinic of Mater Dei Hospital, Malta
11:30-12:00	Respectful midwifery Care is also a conduit for reducing maternal mortality in Jamaica: An exploratory study	Cynthia Pearl Pitter - UWI School of Nursing, Mona, Jamaica
13:00-13:30	Prevalence of Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD) and the associated risk factors during prenatal period among pregnant mothers in Tanzania	Anase Nelson Minja - HJFMRI/WRP HIV Care Program Tanzania
13:30-14:00	A study about the services of legal abortion in the first level of public health in the metropolitan area of Uruguay: Evaluation after 21 months from the services implementation	Ana Monza - Public Health Services in Primary Care, Montevideo Metropolitan Area, Uruguay Gabriela Píriz - Public Health Services in Primary Care, Montevideo Metropolitan Area, Uruguay
14:00-15:00	Discussion	
15:00-15:30	End of the workshop session	

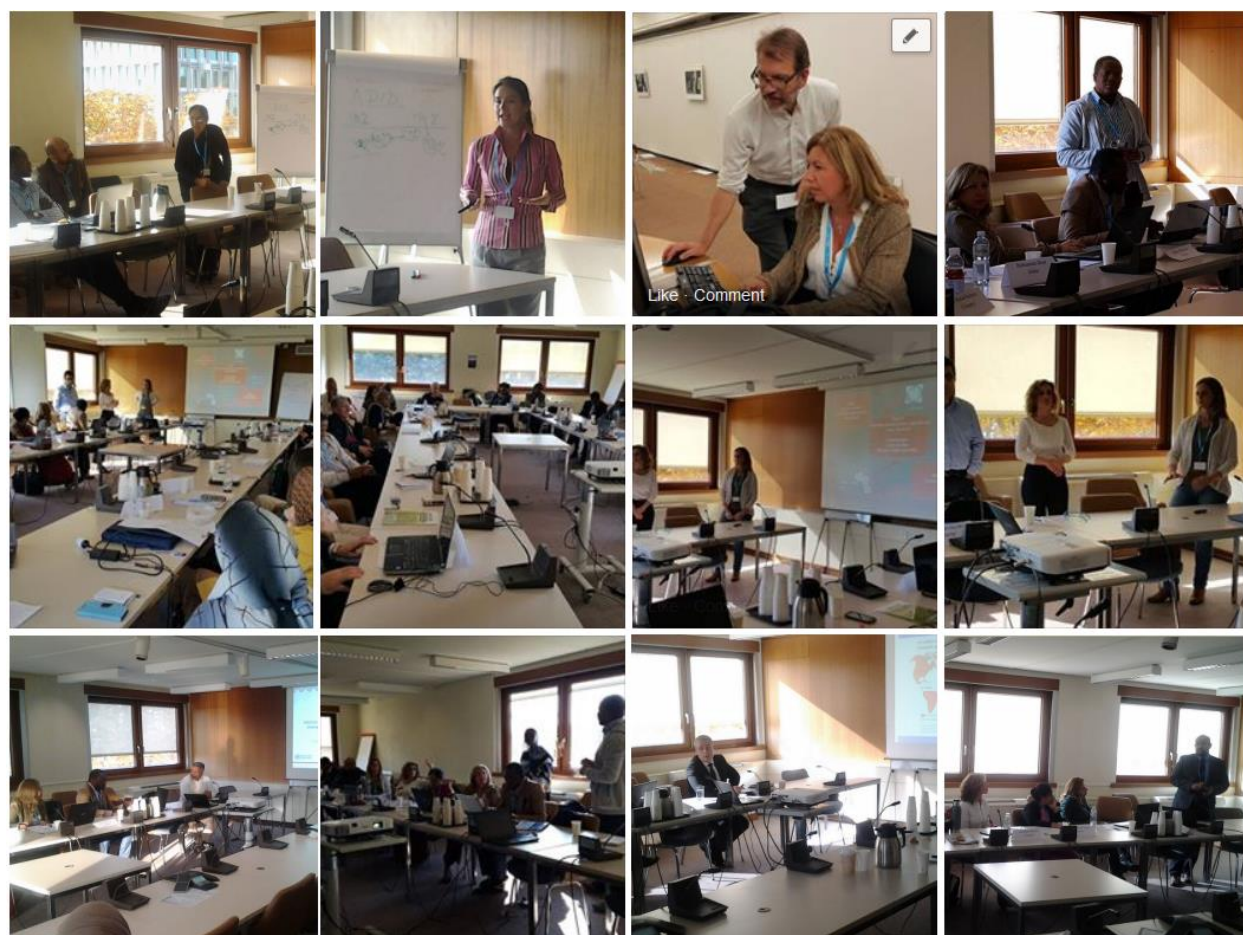


Table 2: Participants' Profile

Family name	First name	Country	Profession	Education
Abdalla	Hisham Hussein Imam Ibraheim	Egypt	Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology	M.B.B.Ch, M.Sc (OB&GYN), MD (OB&GYN), DHM, F.MAS, F.ART
Alaradi	Maryam	Bahrain	Lecturer in Nursing	PhD in Nursing
Cordova Pozo	Kathya Lorena	Bolivia	Project Coordinator	PhD in Economic
Desai	Rathnamala	India	Professor and Head of Department	MD(Ob/Gyn)
Engida Yisma	Derbie	Ethiopia	Lecturer and researcher School of Allied Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences	MPH
Felisbino- Mendes	Mariana Santos	Brazil	Professor	PhD in Nursing
Janghorban	Roksana	Iran	Assistant Professor in Reproductive Health, Vice Dean for Research	PhD
Minja	Anase Nelson	Tanzania	PMTCT Technical Advisor	MPH
Monza	Ana	Uruguay	Co-Coordinator of the Sexual and Reproductive Program	Licenciada en Psicología
Nyambe	Namakau	Zambia	Program Officer- Clinical Services Evaluation and Gender	MA, Gender

Osiyemi	Adenekan	Nigeria	Physician in Training, Family Medicine Department	MBChB
Padovese	Valeska	Malta	Dermatology and Venereology Consultant	MD, Specialist in dermatology and Venereology
Piriz	Gabriela	Uruguay	Co-Coordinator of the Sexual and Reproductive Program	MD, Ob/Gyn
Pitter	Cynthia	Jamaica	Lecturer	MSc, Education



Hisham Hussein Imam
Abdalla, Egypt



Maryam Alaradi,
Bahrain



Kathya Lorena Cordova
Pozo, Bolivia



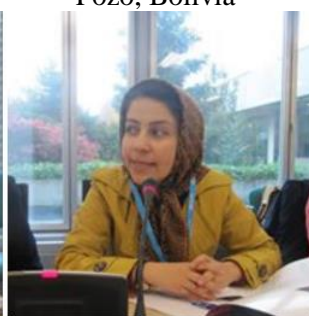
Rathnamala M. Desai,
India



Engida Yisma Derbie,
Ethiopia



Mariana Santos Felisbino-
Mendes, Brazil



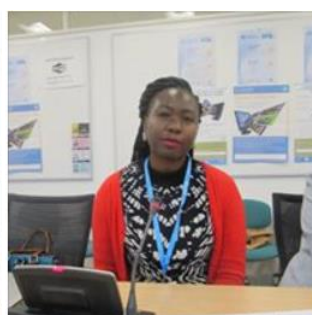
Rokhsana Janghorban,
Iran



Anase Nelson Minja,
Tanzania



Ana Monza Pacheco,
Uruguay



Namakau Nyambe,
Zambia



Adenekan Osiyemi,
Nigeria



Valeska Padovese,
Malta



Gabriela Píriz
Etcheverry, Uruguay



Cynthia Pearl Pitter,
Jamaica

Table 3: Participants' Summary of Research Protocols

No.	Author	Nationality	Title of Research Protocol	Research Field
1	Kathya Lorena Cordova Pozo	Bolivian	Provision of mobile health consultations in school setting in Cochabamba-Bolivia to improve sexual and reproductive health among adolescents: A pilot study	Adolescent health
2	Rathnamala M. Desai	Indian	Vitamin D supplementation during pregnancy and maternal and perinatal outcome - a double blind randomized clinical trial	Maternal and perinatal health
3	Hisham Hussein Imam Abdalla	Egyptian	The effect of maternal age on pregnancy outcome in women delivered in a private Hospital in Eastern Region of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Maternal and perinatal health
4	Namakau Nyambe	Zambian	The role of health workers in abortion care and post abortion contraception in Zambia	Family planning
5	Mariana Santos Felisbino-Mendes	Brazilian	Preconception health in Brazil: Risk factors and non-communicable diseases assessment among Brazilian reproductive age women	Maternal and perinatal health
6	Engida Yisma Derby	Ethiopian	Fertility desire among HIV-infected women of reproductive age attending public hospitals of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Sexual and reproductive health
7	Maryam Alaradi	Bahrain	Psychological morbidity and quality of life after recurrent spontaneous miscarriages in women and their husbands in Bahrain	Sexual and reproductive health
8	Roksana Janghorban	Iranian	Exploring perception of Iranian married women regarding to sexual rights: A grounded theory study	Sexual rights
9	Adenekan Osiyemi	Nigerian	Influence of family environment on risky sexual behaviour of in-school adolescents in Oyo State, Nigeria	Adolescent health
10	Valeska Padovese	Italian	STIs/HIV prevalence among patients attending GU clinic: A cross-sectional health facility-based study	STI/HIV
11	Cynthia Pearl Pitter	Jamaican	Respectful midwifery Care is also a conduit for reducing maternal mortality in Jamaica: An exploratory study	Maternal and perinatal health
12	Anase Nelson Minja	Tanzanian	Prevalence of Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD) and the associated risk factors during prenatal period among pregnant mothers in Tanzania	Maternal and perinatal health
13	Ana Monza and Gabriela Píriz	Uruguayan	A study about the services of legal abortion in the first level of public health in the metropolitan area of Uruguay: Evaluation after 21 months from the services implementation	Sexual and reproductive health



Table 4: Participants' Feedback: Overall Perceived Effectiveness of Workshop Topics

Item	No. of responses	%
1. To what extent was this workshop relevant and useful to your work?		
1 (not relevant and useful)	0	
2	0	
3	0	
4	0	
5 (highly relevant and useful)	14	100%
2. Were the concepts, principles and subject matter clearly presented and discussed?		
1 (not clear)	0	
2	0	
3	0	
4	1	7%
5 (very clear)	13	93%
3. Please choose the sentence that expresses your opinion about the technical level of this workshop.		
Most of it was too technical and difficult to understand for me	0	
Some of it was too technical and difficult to understand for me	2	14%
All of it was just about right for me	11	79%
Some of it was too simple for me	1	7%
Most of it was too simple for me	0	
4. To what extent was the workshop interactive and participatory?		
1 (not interactive and participatory)	0	
2	0	
3	0	
4	2	14%
5 (highly interactive and participatory)	12	86%
5. How well were the participants' questions answered?		
1 (not satisfactory)	0	
2	0	
3	0	
4	3	21%
5 (highly satisfactory)	11	79%
6. Was the length of this workshop satisfactory for you?		
1 (not satisfactory)	0	
2	0	
3	0	
4	2	14%
5 (highly satisfactory)	12	86%
7. To what extent do you think you will be able to use and apply in your work the tools and techniques introduced and discussed in this workshop?		
1 (not likely)	0	
2	0	
3	0	
4	3	21%
5 (highly likely)	11	79%

8. At the end of this workshop, how would you rank your level of knowledge and skills of development of research protocol?		
1 (poor)	0	
2	0	
3	0	
4	10	71%
5 (excellent)	4	29%
9. To what extent did the workshop meet your expectation that you had before the workshop?		
1 (not met)	0	
2	0	
3	0	
4	2	14%
5 (well met)	12	86%

Table 5: Participants' Responses to Usefulness of Lectures in their Research

Lecture Topic	No. of Responses	%
1. <u>WHO Library orientation</u> <u>PubMed – the Einstein method</u> <u>Cooking up systematic reviews: tried and true recipes for success,</u> <u>Thomas Allen (WHO)</u>		
Very useful	13	93%
Occasionally useful	1	7%
Not useful	0	
2. <u>Where are we in ASRH&R today?</u> <u>What does not work in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health: A</u> <u>review of evidence on interventions commonly accepted as best practices,</u> <u>Chandra Mouli Venkatraman (WHO)</u>		
Very useful	13	93%
Occasionally useful	1	7%
Not useful	0	
3. <u>How to develop a competitive research protocol</u>, Raqibat Idris (GFMER)		
Very useful	8	57%
Occasionally useful	5	36%
Not useful	1	7%
4. <u>Ethical issues in reproductive health research</u>, Heli Bathija (GFMER)		
Very useful	12	86%
Occasionally useful	2	14%
Not useful	0	
5. <u>Critical appraisal of the medical literature</u>, Jane Hirst (Oxford)		
Very useful	14	100%
Occasionally useful	0	
Not useful	0	
6. <u>Scientific writing</u>, Jane Hirst (Oxford)		
Very useful	13	93%
Occasionally useful	1	7%
Not useful	0	

7. Planning and performing data analysis, Khalifa Elmusharaf (University of Limerick, Ireland)		
Very useful	14	100%
Occasionally useful	0	
Not useful	0	
8. Quantitative data collection: Designing a questionnaire (Part 1), Khalifa Elmusharaf (University of Limerick, Ireland)		
Very useful	14	100%
Occasionally useful	0	
Not useful	0	
9. Ethical considerations in a research protocol (Practical guide), Karim Abawi (GFMER)		
Very useful	14	100%
Occasionally useful	0	
Not useful	0	
10. Technical updates on WHO work on contraceptive use, Mario Festin (WHO)		
Very useful	11	79%
Occasionally useful	3	21%
Not useful	0	
11. Qualitative data collection methods, Khalifa Elmusharaf (University of Limerick, Ireland)		
Very useful	14	100%
Occasionally useful	0	
Not useful	0	
12. Behaviour interventions to prevent STI/HIV, Igor Toskin (WHO)		
Very useful	9	64%
Occasionally useful	5	36%
Not useful	0	
13. Critical appraisal of research protocol, Ali Moazzam (WHO)		
Very useful	13	93%
Occasionally useful	1	7%
Not useful	0	
14. Reproductive health: A new holistic vision, Giuseppe Benagiano (WHO)		
Very useful	13	93%
Occasionally useful	1	7%
Not useful	0	



Remarks by Participants

Hisham H.I. Abdalla, from Egypt

I was fortunate to get to know about the Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health conducted by the Geneva foundation for medical education and research (GFREM). At the first insight, I was surprised to know that the Foundation is conducting such a course. I decided to fill the application and to see whether they will respond or not. It was surprising again to receive an instant replay confirming that I was accepted as a participant of the online course for the year 2015. They also adopted a good idea by assigning a coach for each group of participants and again I was lucky having Dr. Khalifa Al-Musharraf as my coach and he was joined later by Dr. Khadija Matrook who was also very beneficial to me. The idea of having an educational and refreshing course that can be conducted on line was very appealing to me as I know that I cannot afford having a free time for weeks or months attending a similar course. Then we started the real work.

The course is including 7 modules, which are very beneficial to any one working in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health.

During the course, there was a continuous interaction between me and the coaches, both Dr. Khalifa and Dr. Khadija.

All through the duration of the course, there was always a communication with Dr. Karim and Ms Fionna with a continuous update of the progress of the course and you can always know how adequate is your performance. Getting to know the number of the participant in the course that was exceeding 300 participants, you may know how huge would be the administrative efforts.

If you are very much committed, hard worker and really keen to learn more, you will find yourself selected through a very transparent bias free process to participate in intensive course in Sexual & Reproductive Health conducted by GFMER in Geneva. Which is a marvellous intensive course that covers a comprehensive 5 days course, a very wide varieties of topics that are of interest for any professional working in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

All the Logistics of attending the course are nicely and accurately managed by GMFER administration including air flight booking the Hotel reservation and invitation letter to get the VISA.

The course is very much enriched with lectures in different topics discussions and interactive sessions.

The foundation did not also forget to add an entertainment issue by inviting all the participants of the intensive course for a tour to the ancient Geneva City Guided by Dr. Blaise Bourrit and concluded my Dinner in one of traditional restaurants of Geneva.

Namakau Nyambe from Zambia

My name is Namakau Nyambe. I work as a Program Officer in the Research and Gender units at FHI360 Zambia office. I have a Bachelor of Arts with Education Degree and a Masters in Gender Studies. Before I joined FHI360, I worked for a research organization called Center for

Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ). My job there was to coordinate research studies. Most of what I know on research was learnt on the job during my tenure at CIDRZ.

I first learnt about The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education Research (GFMER) course through my mentor, Dr. Kidest Lulu who was once a GFMER participant. She recommended the course because she thought that it could serve as a foundation for my involvement in Reproductive Health Research (RHR) since I did not come from a public health or medical background. I applied immediately and I was accepted. Dr. Karim Abawi offered to be my coach.

Initially, I was worried about how I was going to manage studying remotely and without having any direct contact with my lecturers. However, the GFMER team communicated regularly and in a way giving me assurance that I was not alone and that the foundation was there for me every step of the way throughout the course.

I remember talking to one of my colleagues who is a medical doctor about the course and his reaction was “is that not a course for Doctors?” At that point, I felt that I had probably made a mistake because the content of the course was actually medical to some extent. But I looked back and thought of all the short courses I had done through the GFMER course which were somewhat quiet medical and how well I had performed in the tests. I got motivated to forge ahead and just put in my very best. I really attribute this to the course coordinators/lecturers who developed the courses. Evidently, they made the courses so easy to understand. So easy that a person like me who does not come from a public health background could understand.

Fast forward to the end of the course. Towards the end of the course, The Assistant Dean of the University of Zambia School of Medicine (UNZA SOM) mentioned that the Department of Public Health the School was in need of a Part Time Lecturer to teach Gender and Health to Master in Public Health students. I went for introduction to the dept. head and I was asked if I had any background in public health. I told them that about my participation in course and explained about the foundation and the content of the course and they said it was good enough. I am proud to let you know that I am part time lecturing at the university which I attended and am very happy to have this opportunity to give back to the school.

Early this year, I interviewed for a Research Advisor Position but unfortunately, I did not get the job because I lacked data analysis skills. I started looking out in the papers for adverts on short courses in the analysis. I thought of asking Dr. Abawi if it was possible to add Data Analysis to the Agenda for the Geneva workshop. Before I could ask, Fionna sent the agenda and ALAS! The agenda included data analysis! You have no idea how happy I was and I mentioned this to Karim and Fionna.

All in all, the GFMER course has been very intensive but very rich. I go back home with so much knowledge which I am going to share with colleagues, friends and students and will apply the knowledge in my work.

Coming from a developing country, we face so many public health problems like TB, HIV, Malaria etc. So, augmenting the number of trained health researchers is an urgent priority as this course is definitely going to help create a force of research who will help answer PH questions and help respond to the challenges being faced in many developing countries.

Many thanks to WHO, GFMER foundation and the Geneva state for giving a great opportunity such as this.





Sample of Certificate



FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE: TRAINING COURSE IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH

THE GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION THE DEPARTMENT OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RESEARCH

**CERTIFIES THAT
Ms. / Mr. / Dr.**

**HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE RESEARCH WORKSHOP, HELD IN GENEVA, 24-28 OCTOBER 2016,
AS FINAL PART OF THE TRAINING COURSE IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH**

Prof. Aldo Campana

Director
Geneva Foundation for Medical Education
and Research (GFMER)

Dr. Blaise Bourrit

General Secretary
Geneva Foundation for Medical Education
and Research (GFMER)

Dr. Karim Abawi

Project Manager, Education & Research
Geneva Foundation for Medical Education
and Research (GFMER)