

## **Training Module Title: District Health Management**

***Developed by Dr. Amjad Idries***

### ***Module Description:***

Training of locality health management teams in the problem solving approach is one of the key elements (in addition to leadership and management) of a comprehensive capacity building plan aimed at strengthening the local health system in Sudan. This module is addressing the problem solving techniques through the District team problem-solving approach (DTPS).

The district team problem-solving (DTPS) is a process in which teams of health workers at district level are guided with rigorously structured sequences of assignments in conducting their own analysis of one or more high priority public health problem/s in their district, devising and then implementing their own solution to the identified problem/s over a defined period, conducting and presenting the results of their own evaluation of their implementation (progress, constraints, service improvements, and health impact).

### ***Objectives:***

- build problem solving and solution implementing capacity among district personnel
- develop good team-work and improved managerial skills
- learn a "bottom line" approach and focus the on health outcomes or end-results.

### ***Knowledge:***

By end of this module, participants will be able to describe:

- what DTPS is
- how DTPS improves public health services
- how DTPS enables health personnel to manage services better
- how to set up, organize and conduct DTPS successfully.

***Skills:***

- developing the ability to gather and use data
- systematically analyze a problem
- identify principal causes and locally feasible solutions within the national policy and programme framework
- plan and put into operation the team's implementation activities within a realistic time frame
- decide how they will monitor and evaluate both their efforts to implement and the success of their envisioned solution
- present all this clearly and briefly within a coherent action plan (or team project proposal)
- developing good team-work and improved managerial skills

***Attitudes:***

- willingness to listen to and to use all members during the one-year DTPS period,
- respect each other to function as a real team and to develop team spirit.

***Learning Units (Contents):***

- Setting up for DTPS
- DTPS planning process
- Implementation of team solution
- DTPS evaluation process
- Follow-up of results of DTPS process

***Instructional Methods:***

The module will combine different methods of teaching:

- Formal class sessions including presentations
- Group work and case studies
- Team assignments through field work
- Team self evaluation

**Resources:**

- The lecturers, audiovisual and printed materials
- Resources needed for field work: Coordination and supervision of the field work.

**Plan of Assessment:**

- Achieving satisfactory grade in the post test;
- Achieving satisfactory grade in the problem solving assignments;
- Achieving satisfactory grade in the assessment of the final report of the project

**References & Recommended Reading:****Required readings:**

Bainbridge J. & Sapirie S.A., *Health Project Management. A manual of procedures for formulating and implementing health projects*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1974 (WHO Offset Publication No. 12)

Delp, P. et al., Nominal group technique, In: *Systems tools for project planning*, PASITAM, International development Institute, Indiana University, 1977

Folch-Lyon E. et al., Focus group and survey research on family planning in Mexico, *Studies in family planning*, 1981, 12:409-432

Janovsky, K., *The challenge of implementation - district health systems for primary health care*, Geneva,

World Health Organization, 1988 (unpublished WHO document WHO/SHS/DH/88.1/Rev 1)

Sapirie, S.A., Action-oriented health systems research through district health team problem-solving, In: *The role of health systems research*, Nordic School of Public Health, Goteborg, Sweden, 1987

***Recommended readings:***

World Health Organization, 1993, *District Team Problem Solving Guidelines for Maternal and Child Health, Family Planning and other Public Health Services*.

- *Tentative Schedule- detailed*

<b>Phase/duration</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>How</b>
Phase 1: 1 month	Setting up for DTPS	Planning and structure of the program
Phase 2: 10 days	DTPS Training & Planning process	Training
Phase 3: 5 months	Implementation of team solution	Each pair from the state should act as team to apply the concepts developed and they should applied that at selected districts
Phase 4: 3 days =	DTPS Evaluation process	Assessment and evaluation