

A Collaborative Model for the Development of Family Medicine in Rwanda

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Family and Community Medicine Rwanda

Objectives

- Describe the process for the development of family medicine in Rwanda
- Discuss the key challenges, successes and barriers during this process
- Identify the critical elements for successful collaboration

FAMCO: Process

- Background

- GTZ discussions and presentations
- Several players from different countries participated in the discussions

FAMCO: Process

○ Funding

- Initial and expanded USAID grant 2006-2009
- Centura Health partnership
- Ministry of Health
- Primafamed funding for FAMCO coordinator
- National university of Rwanda

FAMCO: Process

- Partnerships
 - University of Colorado
 - Centura Health System
 - VLIR - Primafamed
- **Expected output of a Rwandan FAMCO specialists**
 - A medical professional who delivers the highest quality medical care
 - An expert with integrity, honesty, compassion and strong ethical principles

FAMCO: Process

- Medical expert in the most common medical problems which account to 85% of all health problems
- An advocate for the health of his/her patients and the community
- Collaborator with teams of local health care providers and referral specialists
- Capable of leading public health investigations and interventions
- Competent manager of health resources and local health care teams

FAMCO: Process

○ Activities

- Administrative support – Subcontract between U of CO and NUR
 - Local Project Coordinator
 - Project Assistant
 - FAMCO Administrative Assistant
 - Vehicle and operation budget
- Relationship with other departments

FAMCO: Process

○ Activities

- FAMCO program description developed in collaboration with U of CO
- Description of Rwandan Family Physician developed
- District training Hospitals for FAMCO postgraduates identified
- University of Colorado supplied one family medicine to FOM in Rwanda

FAMCO: Challenges

- One NUR FAMCO faculty – Prof. Barongo, Academic Head
- Development of FAMCO program description agreeable to all parties
- Acceptance of FAMCO by other specialists and postgraduates
- Recent change in MOH and MOH staff
- MOH allocation of the FAMCO budget

FAMCO: Challenges

- Mobilization of FAMCO postgraduates to identified district training hospitals
- Family physician faculty staff for each district training hospital
- Specialists in other programs to teach FAMCO students at the district hospitals
- Education priorities and resources at the district training hospitals

FAMCO: Challenges

- Human resources and training materials for implementation of FAMCO program
- Recognition of Rwandan family physicians by key players and policy makers
- Assurance of continued funding

FAMCO: Successes

- FAMCO program description and curriculum approved by NUR & MOH
- FAMCO operationalization approved by NUR & MOH
- FAMCO budget accepted by MOH
- FAMCO coordinator supported by Primafamed
- Philosophical and verbal FAMCO support from academic staff

FAMCO: Successes

- 7 FAMCO postgraduates matriculated August 2008
- Colorado FM Physician already in-country to support the program
- USAID partial funding to support district training hospitals and IT resources
- Some expatriate ready to join family medicine faculty staff positions
- Rwandan family physician description already in place

FAMCO: Barriers

- Allocation of funds from MOH yet to be made available
- Shortage of FAMCO human resources and training materials

FAMCO: Collaboration Critical Elements

- Dean Nsanze persistent and consistent support
- MOH support
 - Philosophical
 - Financial
- Multi-country support
 - Germany
 - Belgium
 - US
- Focus on Rwanda self-identified needs

FAMCO: Collaboration Critical Elements

- Relationship development
 - MOH
 - NUR
 - Academic heads
 - Academic staff
 - Clinical heads
 - Other specialty postgraduates
- Promises for multi-source funding
 - MOH funding necessary for sustainability
- Promises of getting expatriate faculty assistance

