

Planning for Success

- › A training programme and tools that can be integrated into university and research settings
- › Courses for researchers to go through the steps of project management using their current projects
- › Train-the-trainer courses for local sustainability

Effective project planning and evaluation in biomedical research



Today's biomedical research is conducted by teams of specialists working in different locations, in different organizations, and with different tasks. How can these researchers complete their work together in a systematic way and accomplish their objectives?



UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO
Special Programme for Research and
Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)



The beginning of an idea

The concept began in 2001 as part of grant funding to researchers in malaria. Researchers from both the south and the north were collaborating on a 5 year grant through the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases and Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (TDR/MIM). There was a critical need for strong organization, planning and management of projects, given the number of collaborators involved, the geographical spread and length of projects.

A training programme for *Effective project planning and evaluation in biomedical research* was developed by TDR Research Capacity Strengthening and pilot tested in Nigeria (June 2002) and then in Tanzania (June 2003) with TDR grantees as participants, and expanded to include the South African Medical Research Council. It was an exciting 4 days for the 48 researchers who first attended these courses.

“ WE REALLY ENJOYED EVERY MOMENT OF THE WORKSHOP. THE COURSE IS AN EYE OPENER IN PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT. IT HAS HELPED OUR TEAM IN ASSESSING AND EVALUATING THE PROGRESS MADE SO FAR AND IN IMPLEMENTING. ”

Sam, Nigeria

“ IT MAKES LIFE EASIER BY SHOWING THE MILESTONES TO BE ACHIEVED, WHICH ALLOWS PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES. ”

Malebo, Tanzania



What do researchers get out of this training?

DURING THE COURSE

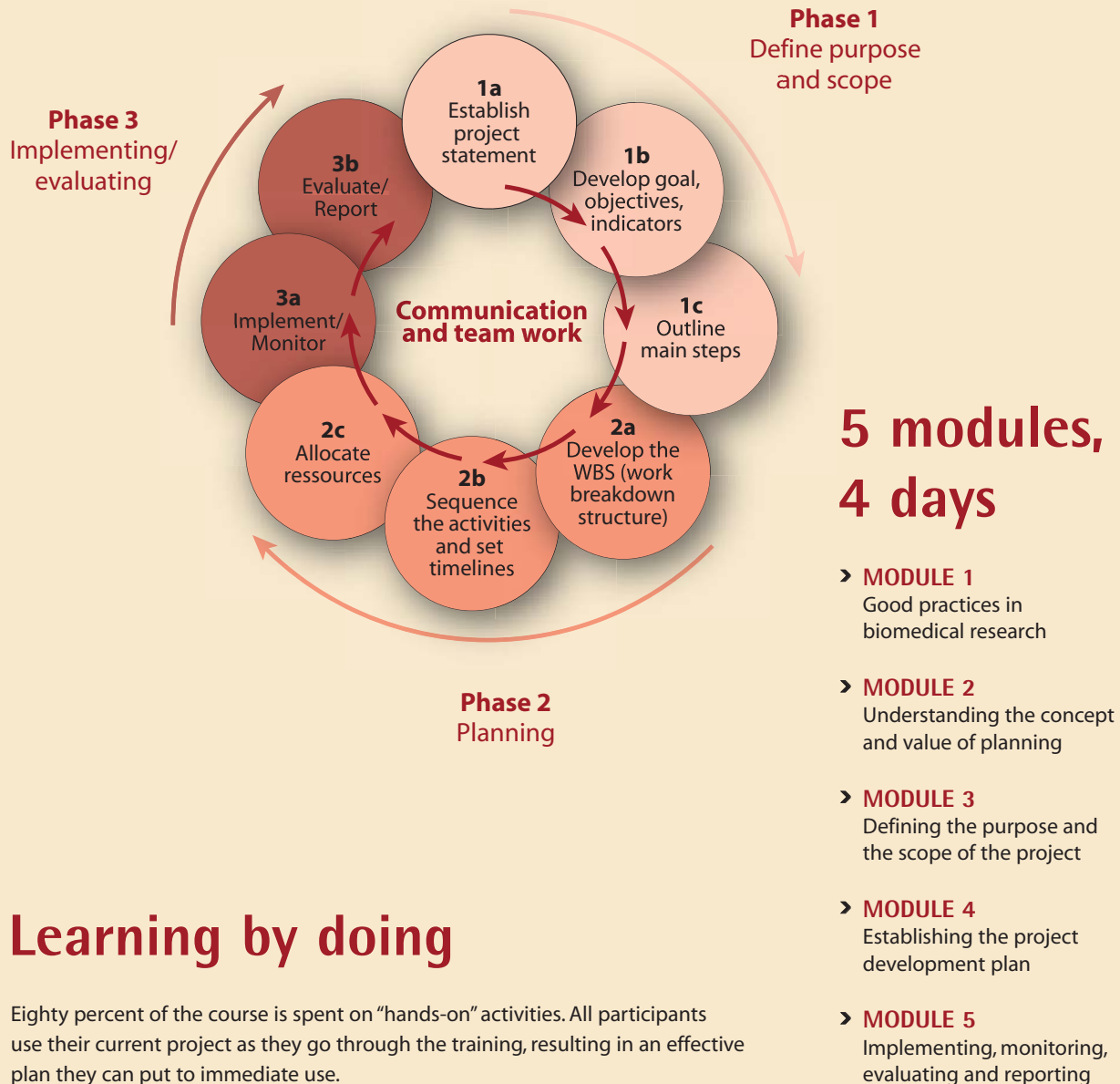
- **Project clearly defined**
Project goal, objectives, measurable indicators and main steps to achieve the objectives.
- **Complete and realistic project development plan**
Gantt and PERT charts, including activities, milestones, responsible persons, timelines and costs.
- **Effective teamwork**
Identify and support project team members' expertise and responsibilities, create communication plan ensuring successful collaborations.

LONG-TERM BENEFITS

- **Increased competitiveness for funding**
Clear project definition and complete development plans are the basis for good proposals.
- **Effective implementation**
Development plans facilitate implementation, monitoring and rapid decisions.
- **Accurate reporting**
Regular monitoring based on milestones and indicators make reporting more systematic and accountable.

Step-by-step approach

PROJECT PLANNING AND EVALUATION PROCESS



Learning by doing

Eighty percent of the course is spent on “hands-on” activities. All participants use their current project as they go through the training, resulting in an effective plan they can put to immediate use.

Expanding the knowledge: join this innovative effort

A PROGRAM NOW READY FOR WIDER DISTRIBUTION

*Be a part of building research capacity in your institution,
your country, your health system.*

*A train-the-trainer course and manual have been developed
so that these skills can be disseminated into any institution or
organization through ongoing training by local trainers.*

**“ THE HALLMARK OF INVESTIGATORS
EXPOSED TO THE COURSE ARE: CLEAR
OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLANS, TIMELY
IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING
AND ACCOUNTABILITY. ”**

Olumide Ogundahunsi,
MIM/TDR Task Force Manager



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You want to know more?

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