



ACE II

Eastern and Southern Africa
Higher Education Centers of Excellence Project



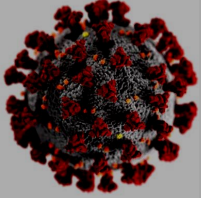
THE WORLD BANK

ACEIDHA *Newsletter*

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Project Communication

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COVID-19 Is Real



**Re-orientation workshop for Principal Officers from the
University of Zambia and Ministry of Higher Education**



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VISION:

To become a leading Centre for generating knowledge and skills for infectious disease prevention and control.

MISSION:

To conduct high level training through cutting-edge research.

CORE VALUES:

- Excellence,
- Innovativeness,
- Integrity,
- Collegiality,
- Transparency and
- Equity.

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MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION PS URGES UNZA MANAGEMENT TO SUPPORT ACEIDHA



Ministry of Higher Education Director of Science and Technology, Mrs Jane Mubanga Chinkusu (left, seated), UNZA Vice-Chancellor, Prof Luke Mumba (centre, seated) and UNZA Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Tamala Kambikambi (right, seated) at the re-orientation workshop for Principal Officers, Directors & Managers organised by ACEIDHA.

Ministry of Higher Education Permanent Secretary, Mrs Kayula Siame has implored the University Management Principal Officers, Directors, Managers and Senior Officers to support activities of the Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) if the project is to achieve desired Disbursement Linked Results (DLRS) as outlined in the World Bank Approved Project Appraisal Document (PAD).
In a speech read on her behalf by the Director of Science and Technology at the Ministry of Higher Education, Mrs Jane Mubanga Chinkusu, Mrs Siame commended ACEIDHA Team for organising the re-orientation workshop for the Principal Officers, Directors, and Managers which was aimed at enhancing the understanding of the operations and activities of the project.

She said the platform was timely as it was going to allow selected participants to have a deeper and practical understanding of the project so that everyone could play a role and promote synergies with ACEIDHA to support achievements of desired DLS as outlined in the World Bank approved PAD. Mrs Siame added that the orientation workshop was a springboard for high-level teamwork and an exchange of ideas for the project whose interest, operations and success would contribute to the socio-economic development of the nation.
She implored everyone to support ACEIDHA project as it was a brainchild of local initiatives aimed at responding to a competitive international World Bank call, driven by Zambian scientists applying their academic and research work for the benefit of the nation and other countries.

“This occasion gives me great satisfaction that all participants selected to attend this workshop are key to the successful implementation of ACEIDHA under the ACEII Project. I am, therefore, urging everyone to participate effectively to enhance implementation of the ACEII project,” she said.
Mrs Siame said the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the World Bank agreed on how a total allocation of Six million US dollars (USD 6 million) to the University of Zambia (UNZA) through ACEIDHA could be used to answer many of the higher education challenges experienced in the Eastern and Southern African region as it relates to Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases in Humans and Animals.

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION PS URGES UNZA MANAGEMENT TO SUPPORT ACEIDHA



Mrs Jane Mubanga Chinkusu



Prof Luke Evuta Mumba



Prof King Nalubamba

She said with such support the project was expected to offer practical and relevant answers, in terms of innovative educational initiatives and responses to existing, and possible problems of the modern age. She further said that the project was expected to enhance scientific human capacity, not only theoretical knowledge but also the development of skills to be useful in effectively responding to problems, scenario and circumstances afflicting the world today, including COVID-19.

Mrs Siame further applauded ACEIDHA for responding to the National Health Challenges like COVID-19 through providing timely diagnostic results to the Ministry of Health. She also commended the Centre for sourcing financial support of Two Hundred Thousand US dollars (USD200, 000) from Skoll Foundation of the United States of America that was used in the mitigation of COVID-19 pandemic in Zambia.

She further noted that ACEIDHA was a critical project for the country just like the rest of the Africa Centres of Excellence around the Continent. Therefore, it was expected, through training, to address specific development challenges facing the region through training of masters, PhD students and offer short courses as well as enhancing research in the form of partnerships and collaborations with other institutions and the private sector.

And UNZA Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Luke Mumba thanked the World Bank Group for supporting University by extending the concept of Africa Centre of Excellence to Southern and Eastern Africa as ACE phase two (ACE II). He said the competitive nature of acquiring funding from the World Bank for the creation of ACEIDHA was a demonstration that UNZA and its human resource could compete favourably in a grant application with other universities. He also extended his gratitude to the Governments of the Republic of Zambia, and the Government of the Republic of Japan through Hokkaido University for the support rendered in

advancing knowledge in various areas of zoonoses.

Prof Mumba noted that the orientation workshop convened for management and senior officers by the ACEIDHA Team was a deliberate choice of participants because of their significant role in the success of the project. He said ACEIDHA project was important because it played a significant role in the realization of the global development agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the Agenda 2063: Africa the Future We Want. He also said that at Southern Africa Development Committee (SADC) level there was a framework that speaks to this particular project. He added that at national level ACEIDHA contributes to Agenda 2030, the 7th National Development Plan, and also to the UNZA Strategic Plan.

Prof Mumba further said for Africa to develop there was a need for Peace, Policies and more importantly, People and that it was not just any people but people with skills. He said ACEIDHA's role in developing skilled labour through training of Masters and PhD students was not only for Zambia but for Africa as a whole. Prof Mumba implored ACEIDHA to continue with the focus aimed at helping to build capacities of other institutions in Zambia and on the continent. He said in Africa there was a need to train a critical mass of expertise if the continent was to develop. Prof Mumba urged the project team to extend similar engagements with external stakeholder so that they too may have a better understanding of the significance of the project.

Meanwhile, the Dean School of Veterinary Medicine Prof King Nalubamba in his welcome remarks said ACEIDHA was a critical project in the University which required support by everyone. Prof Nalubamba thanked all the principal officers, managers and senior officers for attending the workshop and urged everyone to take advantage of the workshop to understand the activities and operations of the project.

ACEIDHA Project Manager Explains How International Students Were Managed During COVID-19

Introduction:

In August 2020, the Government of the Republic of Zambia partially relaxed health restrictions and guidelines on coronavirus (COVID-19) to allow schools and universities to open for face-to-face learning. And the Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) based at the University of Zambia had some students coming from outside Zambia for the face-to-face learning.

Q1: How did you manage to arrange for the students' travels from their countries to Zambia?

The Centre had to seek for authority from the University Management, the Ministry of Higher Education and from the Ministry of Health to arrange for student's travels.

Q2: Did you face any hurdles in arranging for travels of international student? Please tell us how you managed them.

Yes we did face some hurdles especially with the Travel Agent registered with the University, as they could not give us tickets on credit facility due to low business. Secondly, some students had to pay for COVID-19 Clearance certificates twice

Q3: IT was requirement for people coming from outside the country to be under quarantine for 14 days. How did you arrange for your students to follow this requirement?

With the guidance from the Zambia National Public Health Institute, we were



ACEIDHA Project Manager, Mrs Marjorie Phiri



given a list of Hotels and Lodges that had signed MoUs with the Government to offer quarantining services to people coming in with other countries. Thus, as a Centre, we chose Mika Hotel in Chudleigh, since it was nearer to the University than any other hotels on the list. We then arranged some funds for this purpose. Despite having COVID 19 clearance certificates, each foreign student was picked up and taken to the quarantining Centre on arrival. Then after about 3 days, the students were tested through our UNZA Clinic. (To Page 6)

ACEIDHA Project Manager Explains How International Students Were Managed During COVID-19

(From Page 5)

Q4: Did you have any resistance from some students concerning quarantine?

Yes we did. Most of the students resisted the quarantining. But we told them that it was a requirement by Government and therefore they had to abide.

Q5: With the ACEIDHA sponsored students on campus, what kind of help did you give them in order to make them feel at?

We regularly checked on their welfare

Q6: As a project, what measures did you put in place to prevent and protect your students from contracting COVID-19?

We procured hand washing sets, hand washing soap, hand sanitizers, masks. We had regular talks with them, encouraging them to observe the 5 golden rules of COVID 19.

Q7: What are you doing, as a Project, to promote blended learning for your postgraduate students?

The Centre has invested in a Digital studio, where lectures have been recorded to enable the students learn in their conducive environment and time. We are also using on-line platforms.

Q8: What lessons have you learnt from the epidemic with reference to managing your students?

- **Continuing Medical Education Online**

One of the most significant impacts of COVID-19 on our supported students was that the University closed on March 20th, 2020 and, along with it, the teaching it provided.

COVID-19 had negatively impacted on student's mental well-being. Their concerns surrounded three key areas, the most significant of which was the risk of infection to others. Within the School of Veterinary Medicine, there was a heavy emphasis on following personal protective guidance and social distancing and yet students still felt unprepared.

- **importance of effective communication, comprehensive care**

Managing the students requires effective communication

- **Flexibility and adaptability**

Disease outbreak trends change rapidly on the ground, so having the flexibility to modify and adapt project activities is important.

END



Recording lectures



Recording lectures



Recording lectures

ACEIDHA HOLDS ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGETING WORKSHOP



Dean, Veterinary Medicine, Prof King Nalubamba (seated, 2nd left) and ACEIDHA Centre Leader, Prof Bernard Hang'ombe (seated, left) pose for a group photo with the ACEIDHA staff.

The Africa Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals (ACEIDHA) held a workshop to prepare and budget for the year 2021 from 4th to 6th November 2020.

The purpose of this workshop was to identify goals for 2021 and develop strategies to achieve them. The planning workshop also helped the ACEIDHA team to focus on attainable goals and set deadlines for key activities. More importantly, workshop assisted the ACEIDHA Team to forecast and focus on activities to ensure the attainment of the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs).

During the workshop, the 2020 Annual Work Plan was meticulously reviewed and reports from ACEIDHA supporting units were received to assess the level of performance for the year 2020. These supporting units include Finance, Procurement, Communication, Audit, and Engineering.

During the Annual Work Plan and Budgeting workshop, the Government of the Republic of Zambia was represented by the Ministry of Higher Education through the Director of Science and Technology, Mrs Jane Mubanga Chinkusu, who provided vital guidance on a number of

issues and assured ACEIDHA of the Government continued support.

The key outputs of the workshop were: developed Annual Work Plan for 2021, Procurement Plan 2021, Budget 2021, and Communication Plan 2021.

KEY OUTPUTS

developed Annual Work Plan for 2021, Procurement Plan 2021, Budget 2021, and Communication Plan 2021.



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BRIEF PROFILE

The Africa Centre of Excellence of Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animal (ACEIDHA) was launched on 25th April 2018 by Minister of Higher Education, in order to increase capacity to tackle increasing challenges of emerging infectious diseases affecting both humans and animals. This was formed through the World Bank loan to the Republic of Zambia. The Centre is anchored at the University of Zambia in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

MAIN OBJECTIVE

ACEIDHA's main objective is to develop research capacity and improve training of academic staff and students with the focus centred on research into infectious diseases which affect both humans and animals, such as bird flu, Ebola, tapeworms, Brucellosis, Anthrax and others.



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