



FACT SHEET

Distance Learning Bolsters Knowledge and Skills of Current and Future Health Providers

Health professionals receive comprehensive pre-service education and rigorous on-the-job training. But where can they turn to stay up-to-date on the latest information, guidance, and techniques? Keeping abreast of new advances is critical, and access to information is more important than ever.

The Global Health eLearning Center (GHeL) (<https://www.globalhealthlearning.org/>) provides useful and timely continuing education for the world's premier global health professionals. Managed by the Knowledge for Health (K4Health) Project, GHeL is a leader in eLearning and open education.

More than 160,000 global health professionals from every country in the world are learning on GHeL.

Why is GHeL so popular?

- Individuals have free access to 85+ courses on a wide range of global health and development topics and can complete them at their own pace.
- Peer-reviewed and led by subject matter experts, all courses present state-of-the-art technical content and serve as a practical resource for increasing public health knowledge.
- GHeL courses are organized around 16 key technical areas.
- Globally applicable for a broad audience, GHeL courses assist providers, program managers, and policy makers working in low- and middle-income countries.

GHeL Courses Are:

1. Applicable for in-service training

University professors and lecturers in the United States, Canada, Australia, and throughout Africa are using GHeL courses as part of their course offerings. A lecturer from Kenya Medical Training College-Kitui has taken a number of the GHeL courses for his own professional development. As a result, he now uses most of the courses as part of his teaching. He incorporated and made compulsory the *Family Planning Programming - Elements of Success* course; as a result, 40 health workers completed the course. The University of Utah (UT) requires its medical students to complete GHeL's Maternal Health and Child Survival Certificate Programs in order to receive UT's Certificate for Global Health.

2. Accredited for continuing professional development

GHeL courses have been accredited for a variety of health professionals in Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, and the Pacific region.

- In Nigeria, K4Health worked closely with the regulatory body of medical laboratory scientists, the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria, to [revitalize its continuing professional development \(CPD\) policy](#) and [include GHeL relevant courses in the policy itself](#) along with other reputable providers of relevant eLearning courses.
- In Ghana, we worked closely with a technology partner, Grameen Foundation, and Ghana Health Services to adapt a variety of family planning (FP) and maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) courses to align with the roles and responsibilities of Community Health Nurses (CHNs).
- Under the Concern Worldwide US, Inc. (CUS) Innovations for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health initiative, Care Community Hub (CCH) project, Grameen Foundation developed an Android app to host these adapted courses. The Ghana's Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) accredited the adapted courses, so that they count as continuing professional development credit towards the CHNs' annual renewal of their professional license.
- In Rwanda and Uganda, GHeL became an approved CPD provider of the [Rwanda National Pharmacy Council](#) and the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Council.
- In the Pacific region, thanks to an endorsement from the [Pacific Open Learning Health Net \(POLHN\)](#), GHeL course certificates are largely accepted by Pacific Ministries of Health to meet the requirements for continuing professional development of more than 30,000 health workers from 15 Pacific island countries. Additionally, the licensure boards in Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Kiribati recognize GHeL course certificates as evidence of skill development.

3. Adaptable for training and capacity building portfolios

Continuing education can be limited by the high cost of conducting in-person trainings. Likewise, relying solely on eLearning solutions to successfully transfer highly technical skills can be challenging. By [combining these approaches](#), trainers are more likely to see learning, knowledge, and skill transfer reinforced and applied. GHeL courses are ideal training aids, improving on the learning experience when used as pre-requisites, reinforcement assignments, refreshers, or complements to face-to-face workshops and trainings or synchronous webinars.

K4Health in collaboration with Save the Children organized a blended learning training event to improve early childhood development (ECD) activities in the East Africa. The three-day training, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, combined targeted presentations with Learning Lab sessions where participants worked to successfully complete the courses comprised of the ECD Certificate Program. Once the courses were completed, participants participated in joint action planning to better align their current ECD strategies with what they learned from the ECD courses. Participants not only gained new knowledge from the courses but also now had a shared knowledge base to work from to improve their program activities.



The participants of the EP eLearning Launch Event. Photo Credit: Colleen Farrell/Save the Children

“Participation in the accredited eLearning courses has equipped Medical Laboratory Scientists (MLS) to challenge things that are not right for proper diagnosis and patient care. It has made MLS to be more composed.”

— an MLS Supervisor

“In my final year of nursing school, one of my teachers recommended I take GHeL courses to further my education. When I was working in the maternity ward, a woman came in with heavy bleeding and [thanks to a course on emergency obstetrics] I knew the danger signs, and was able to treat her and stop the bleeding in time.”

— an MLS Supervisor

Contact

If you are interested in **applying** GHeL courses to in-service training, **accrediting** GHeL courses for your members, or **adapting** GHeL content for your needs, please contact Lisa Mwaikambo and Amy Lee, the GHeL Managers at ghelcenter@gmail.com.

About GHeL

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