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K4Health
Knowledge for Health

K4Health/Nigeria CMLE Program: Building Local Capacity to Ensure Sustainability



AMLSN participants taking part in the Business Planning for Health (BPH) Program in Abuja

GOAL

By the end of the project, at least 50% of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MLS) will earn a CMLE credit from MLSCN through the K4Health/Nigeria Web-based CMLE program.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Increase MLS' access to quality CMLE programs, and by doing so, achieve improved skills and proficiency of laboratory professionals.
2. Develop and build local technical and organizational capacity on the design, implementation and management of a quality and sustainable CMLE program.
3. Institutionalize the consistent use of standard-CMLE credits as a requisite for licensure of MLS by the Nigerian government.

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Country ownership, organizational sustainability, and graduation from donor support are worthy goals of any organization and key goals of the K4Health/Nigeria CMLE Program. Each of these goals centers on an organization's ability to mobilize resources to serve its client's sustainably, while remaining mission driven in the face of market and donor shifts.

As a result, the K4Health/Nigeria CMLE Program supported MSH's facilitation of two workshops with the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN) this quarter. These included a Resource Mobilization Workshop with AMLSN Secretariat staff and the newly elected National Executive Officers (NEOs) as well as the launch of the Business Planning for Health (BPH) Program with AMLSN Secretariat staff, a few key NEOs, and the Journal's business manager.

The outcomes of these activities included the development of a Resource Mobilization Plan aligned to AMLSN Strategic Plan and the start of a business plan for AMLSN's eLearning consultancy services. The business plan will be finalized in the next few months after the completion of some ongoing work assignments with virtual technical support provided by MSH.

The commitment of the participants to achieving the Program's goals of sustainability and diversification of revenue streams was noted by the MSH facilitator; *"[I am] so impressed today with the dedication of the team to think outside the box and be more innovative in terms of what they can achieve... I think the next two sessions will make a great impact on the Association and I am so excited about what they are determined to achieve."* An AMLSN Secretariat staff member shared *"It's been a hectic but interesting two weeks and we have learnt a great deal."* Not only has the capacity of AMLSN as an organization been built through these important trainings, but also the individual capacity of the NEOs who can then take the newly acquired information and skills and apply them to other areas of AMLSN as well as their respective workplaces. One NEO expressed his gratitude to the MSH facilitator, *"The memory of your excellent tutorship will definitely last very long in me.... We will not let you down."*

AMLSN now has the tools to ensure its long-term sustainability.