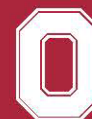


University of Gondar The Ohio State University OIE Veterinary Education Twinning Program

Interim Report #1
January 2016

Reporting period:
06/01/2015 – 01/31/2016



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE

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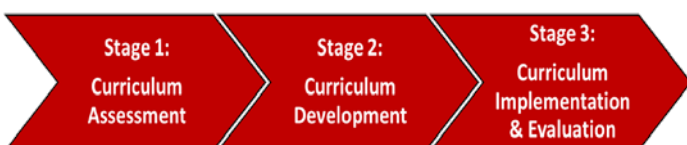
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UoG-OSU Twinning Program

UoG–Ohio State Twinning Program Objectives:

- Strengthen Ethiopia’s Veterinary Services by aligning the DVM curriculum with the OIE Day 1 Veterinary Competencies and OIE guidelines on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum
- Develop a uniformed assessment tool to identify training gaps in veterinary education
- Increase the number of competent, newly trained veterinarians whose education fulfil the OIE Day 1 Competencies to promote and protect the health of people, animals, and the environment
- Provide continuing education and professional development opportunities to improve the current veterinary workforce

Task 1: Curriculum Assessment, Development, & Evaluation



Task 2: Human Resource Development & Exchange



Curriculum Assessment:

The first phase of this project is to perform a curriculum evaluation based on the OIE Day 1 Veterinary Competencies and the Veterinary Core Curriculum. This will allow the identification of any potential gaps and areas of improvement in the veterinary curriculum, pedagogy, and other academic areas. This phase has already been initiated and contains three steps: a faculty retreat, a curriculum review, and a site visit. Details will be provided on the next pages.



Ethiopia has the largest livestock population in Africa with an estimated 52.1 million cattle, 24.2 million sheep, and 22.6 million goats

The four objectives will be accomplished by:

- Assessing UoG–Ohio State current DVM degree program curricula and teaching capacity in relation to the OIE’s Day 1 Competencies and Veterinary Education Core Curriculum
- Prioritizing the identified gaps in the veterinary curriculum, pedagogy, and other academic areas to create a comprehensive action plan to best address these areas
- Developing courses, pedagogical tools, and training programs to fulfill Day 1 Competencies
- Faculty and Student Exchange for training, collaborative research, educational material development, and direct participation in projects
- Cross-twinning workshops to promote international collaboration and educational models.
- Establishing long-term continuing education and professional training programs.

Assessing Today to Improve Tomorrow

Cross Twinning Collaboration

Task 2, Stage 6, Activity 1.3

I. OIE Educational Twinning Session

A panel titled “Veterinary Educational Twinning: Implementing OIE Day-One Competencies from Local to Global” took place during the 4th Food Safety and Zoonoses Symposium, August 4th 2015 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The panel’s main objective was to introduce the participants to the OIE Twinning Project by describing their own experiences. During this activity that preceded the International Congress on Pathogens at the Human-Animal Interface (ICOPHAI), there was great interest from the veterinary colleges across the Asian Pacific region to learn about the OIE Twinning program and the process and methods used to improve the veterinary curriculum and teaching pedagogies for use in their home institutions. Dr. Armando Hoet, team leader of the University of Gondar – The Ohio State University (UoG–Ohio State) Twinning Project, received numerous questions about the development and objectives of the UoG-Ohio State Twinning proposal and OIE Day 1 Competencies. He also shared the different steps to be taken in assessing the Veterinary Curriculums at UoG and Ohio State.



Far left: A member of the Ethiopian delegation, Dr. Takele Meron, Vice President of Research from UoG, ask the Deans from Chiang Mai University (CMU) and the University of Minnesota (UMN) about their experiences and opinions in regards to the impact of the twinning program in their institutions.



Left: Panelist (from right to left) Dr. K. Kreausukon, CMU Dean; Dr. W. Hueston, PI for CMU–UMN twinning project; Dr T Ames, UMN Dean, and Dr. A. Hoet PI for UoG–Ohio State.



II. Planning Meeting

On August 5th 2015, Faculty from UoG, including Dr. Achene Melaku, Dean of the UoG-FVM and Associate Professor of Veterinary Pharmacology, Dr. Tsegaw Fentie, Department Head and Associate Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology, and Dr. Seleshe Nigatu, Educational Quality Control Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Veterinary Public Health; and faculty from Ohio State including Dr. Armando Hoet Director of the Ohio State Veterinary Public Health Program and Dr. Wondwossen Gebreyes Director of Global Health Programs participated in the planning meeting for upcoming UoG–Ohio State OIE Twinning Program activities.

Dr. Desalegn Mengesha, President of the University of Gondar and Dr. Takele Tadesse, Vice President of Research of UoG, joined this meeting to learn more about the methodology for assessing the veterinary curriculum, as well as its application to other academic programs. They were highly pleased with the planned methodology and indicated that they will strongly support this initiative with additional matching funds to expand the Faculty Retreat to include the Deans from all the veterinary schools in Ethiopia. This will increase the expected impact of this Twinning Project throughout country. During this meeting, which took place on the margins of the ICOPHAI, a new timeline for the UoG-Ohio State Twinning project was developed (See last page).



III. Cross Twinning:

In Thailand on August 5th, 2015, representatives from UoG and Ohio State met with faculty from Chiang Mai University (CMU) to share their experiences with the Twinning program. Their conversation was focused on the how they approached the analysis and implemented the OIE Day 1 specific and advanced competencies of graduating veterinarians following the OIE guidelines on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum. In addition, the UoG–Ohio State team was also interested in learning how such program had impacted the quality of their graduates towards the support of their National Veterinary Services.

The UoG–Ohio State team also toured the CMU veterinary college (see photos), during which the CMU shared their accomplishments and experiences with the Twinning Program.

IV. International Congress on Pathogens at the Human-Animal Interface (ICOPHAI), Chiang Mai, Thailand August 6th to 8th, 2015

UoG Faculty actively engaged with international experts in emerging zoonotic diseases and discussed ideas on how to incorporate these topics into the veterinary curriculum to strengthen their graduates. During the Congress, they indicated multiple times the importance of training in this area to educate high quality veterinary professionals to work for the national veterinary services in Ethiopia, where zoonotic diseases have a major toll on both public and animal health as well as production.

The UoG–Ohio State team’s active involvement in this conference demonstrates their commitment to developing veterinary graduates that will have a positive impact on global health by participating in research involving infectious diseases at the human–animal–ecosystem interface. An important objective of this OIE sponsored Twinning Project is developing educational opportunities in alignment with the OIE competency recommendations for graduating veterinarians including research.



The UoG-Ohio State Team with the ICOPHAI Organizing Committee

Curriculum Assessment

Task 1, Stage 1

I. Faculty Retreat

On February 20, 2016 at the Addis Continental Institute of Public Health in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, 50 professors and instructors from the University of Gondar–Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Deans from other Ethiopian Veterinary Schools, and four faculty members from Ohio State will participate in an evaluation of UoG veterinary graduates’ proficiency in the OIE Day 1 Competencies. The information gathered here will be used to identify gaps in the curriculum with respect to the OIE Guidelines on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum and the OIE’s Day 1 Competencies.



A number of meetings have been held to determine the logistics for the Faculty Retreat. During the retreat, participants will be arranged into small groups to critically review the various OIE Day 1 competencies and appraise the level of proficiency for new UoG veterinary graduates using a specifically developed evaluation tool and established definitions.



Addis Continental Institute of Public Health Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

Evaluation Tool

The UoG-Ohio State partners have developed an evaluation tool to systematically assess the level of understanding and competency of veterinary graduates at time of graduation in regards to the skills and knowledge outlined in the OIE Day 1 Competencies. This tool will be used during the Faculty Retreat and site visit, to identify potential gaps or areas for improvement in the veterinary curriculum. This tool will also provide unique metrics that will be used throughout the project to determine the impact of the Twinning program.

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Evaluation of OIE Day 1 Competencies
Session 1: Epidemiology and Food Hygiene
Groups 1 and 2

Day 1 Competency 2.1 Epidemiology							
a.) General Principles of Descriptive Epidemiology							
• Measuring Disease				• Measuring Occurrence			
Is the average Day 1 DVM graduate able to:	Highly Competent	Moderately Competent	Insufficiently Competent	Not Competent	Not in Curriculum	Not Sure	Comments
Measure and describe disease? (i.e. calculate morbidity and mortality rates, attack rates, etc.)							
Calculate and describe disease occurrence? (i.e. incidence and prevalence)							
Describe the difference between the various temporal and spatial distributions of disease? (i.e. endemic, sporadic, and epidemic)							

This evaluation tool consists of a series of charts and tables (see side picture) with specific questions that allow for a detailed and systematic analysis of the various components of the OIE Day 1 Competencies.

The results of the evaluation will allow the partners to establish a profile of the Day 1 UoG and Ohio State veterinary graduates with respect to the OIE Day 1 Competencies. These results will be presented in the Gap Analysis Report for prioritization during the Focus Forward event in July 2016.



The University of Gondar is one of the largest higher education institutions in Ethiopia with over 45,000 students.

II. Curriculum Review

With the purpose to assess the amount of incorporation of the OIE Veterinary Education Core Curriculum into the UoG veterinary curriculum, a systematic review and comparison of the current educational program is ongoing. For this purpose the UoG-FVM provided a full version of their curriculum, which was presented in detail to the Ohio State Team during the Cross Twinning meeting in Thailand. The information obtained from this curricular mapping phase will be incorporated into a *Curriculum Evaluation Report*, which will include the analysis of the data from the interviews, site visit, and Faculty Retreat and all documentation collected up to that point.

III. Site Visit

As a follow up to the Faculty Retreat, Dr. Armando Hoet and Dr. Suzanne Tomasi will be traveling to UoG–FVM from February 21st through February 25th to tour the veterinary school facilities, organize student town-hall meetings, and other activities. The objective of this visit will be to interact with current 5th and 6th year veterinary students, recent graduates, and selected boundary partners not included in the Faculty Retreat. Such interactions will be focused on the status of the current veterinary curriculum, training facilities (teaching and laboratory materials), and capacity building needs in regards to the coverage of OIE courses from the Veterinary Core Curriculum, Day 1 Competencies, and alleged curriculum deficits. Through direct interviews and personal interactions, the visiting team will gather information on their perceived level of postgraduate preparation and level of satisfaction among recent graduates. Survey participants will also be asked to discuss strategies towards the development of a more comprehensive curriculum.

Student Training:

OSU Veterinary Preventive Medicine (VPM) and Ohio Farm to Table (F2T)

Task 2, Stage 5, Activity 2.3

The call for the Ohio State-VPM rotation and Ohio F2T for 2016 was open last October (see poster on the right). Fifth year UoG veterinary students submitted applications to be selected as student ambassadors to travel to Ohio State to participate in these two academic activities. The selection process took into account their academic performance, service to the school, past experiences, advisor recommendations, and communication skills. On January 15, 2016, 11 preselected students were interviewed (see lower right photo) and the final six students who will be traveling to Ohio in July-August 2016 were selected.

Upon returning to Ethiopia, the UoG students will share with the UoG faculty and their peers how the OIE Day 1 Competencies are incorporated into the veterinary program at Ohio State and the pedagogy techniques used for their delivery.



Challenges

Communication Challenges

- Communication through online tools such as Skype has been difficult due to unstable and frequent shortages in the connections system in Ethiopia.
- Alternative communication using phone lines is more stable but still unreliable.
- These connection issues interfere with regular and uninterrupted partner interactions leading to delays in decisions or planning.
- Despite these obstacles, both universities are strongly committed to the success of this program which has allowed to overcome this minor technical issue.
- Solution: Ethiopia and Ohio State partners are working on an IT and eCapacity project to alleviate this limitation.

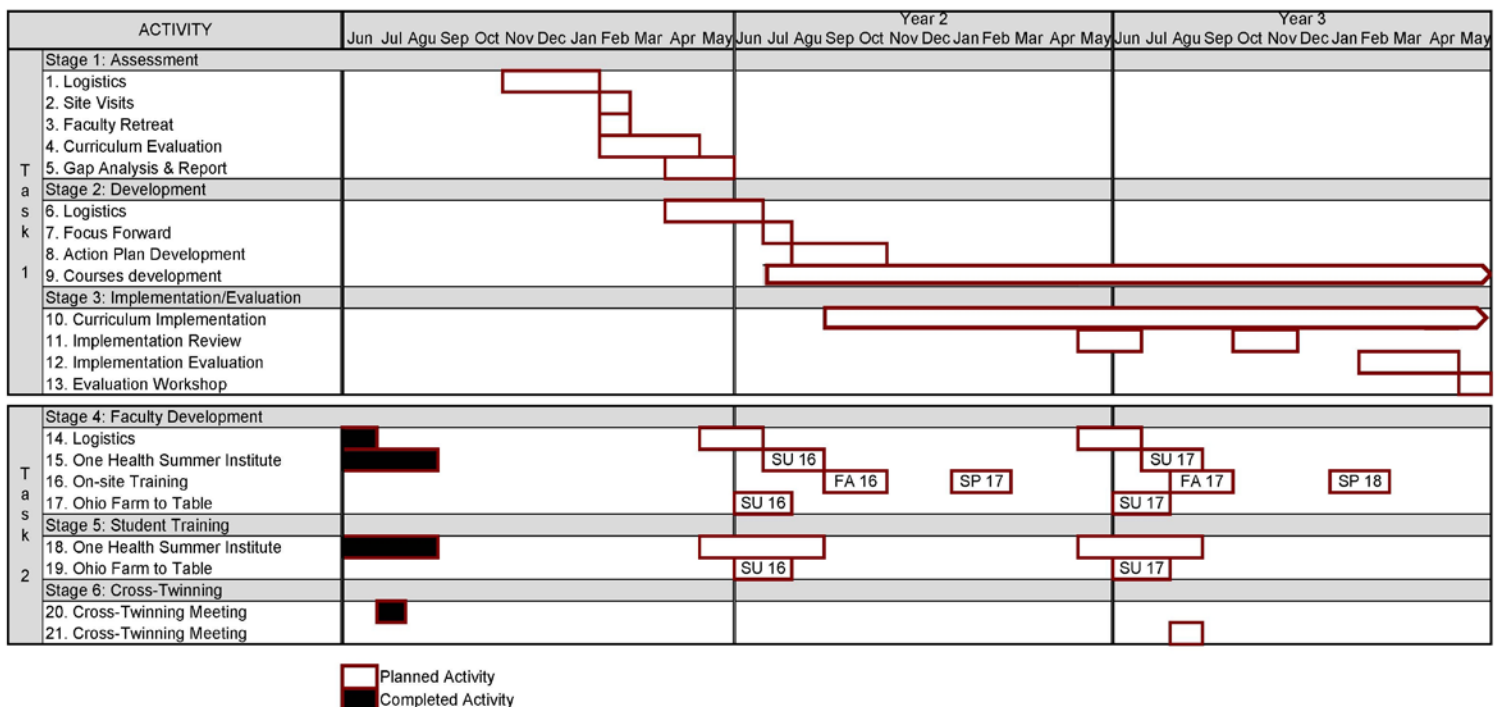


Visa Challenges

- Price of the US Visas has increased since development of the original proposal due to external events.
- UoG Student and Faculty Visas were budgeted for \$160 per person and now it is estimated to be \$650 per person.
- Solution: OIE approved permission to transfer money from activities that came in under budgeted to Activity 2.3 to cover the additional expenses.



New UoG-OSU Twinning Program Timeline





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