

Assistance to the Centre of Strategic Health Studies, Syria

Assignment	Assisting in establishing the Centre for Strategic Health Studies (CSHS) and developing it into a centre of excellence through partnership with the members of the consultants' consortium.
Client	Government of Syria
Financing Agency	European Union (EU)
Partners	Liverpool School of Tropical Health and Hygiene, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Composition of Team	<i>BMB Mott MacDonald</i> : Health Economist, Public Health Specialist <i>Partner(s)</i> : Team Leader and Health Management Specialist, Hospital Management Specialist, Population and Demography Specialist
Period of Assignment	From October 2006 to April 2009 Staff months: <i>BMB Mott MacDonald</i> : 90; <i>Partner(s)</i> : 140
Contract value	<i>BMB Mott MacDonald</i> : € 1,832,000 <i>Partner(s)</i> : € 3,064,000
Background	<p>Health Sector Modernization Project and is at the heart of the project. Greater capacity to plan, to implement existing regulations, and to formulate and carry out new policies is needed. Decentralization of decision-making to governorate and district level is in process, and managers at all levels now need access to the latest skills and knowledge to manage health services.</p> <p>The existing Centre for Health Systems Management Studies (CSHS) has not had the resources to offer a training programme designed to meet these needs, and has run only externally funded courses, which may cover some but not all of these needs. The long term need is for a coordinated scheme of management training which would apply to all health personnel in primary, secondary and tertiary care and would be tailored to responsibilities at each level. This EC project is therefore investing in the CSHS with this project.</p>
Description of project	<p>The main objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) To develop and establish the CSHS with four institutions, ensuring future sustainability of the CSHS as a corporate body with its constituent institutes.(ii) To define the needs of the trainers of the four institutes, to enable them to run the training programmes and conduct internal or external training for Master's degrees and Ph.D.s of the existing and future staff (including long-distance and e-learning)(iii) To define the needs and specifications for supplementary equipment to fulfil its assigned functions(iv) To promote high-quality outcomes in the fields of health action research within the CSHS, relevant for stakeholders and communities

(v) To promote high-quality consultancies and perform consultancy projects starting with the MOH, but later for the overall health sector and neighbouring countries.

Furthermore, the CSHS will design and deliver a range of training programmes. This includes short courses (2-4 weeks), diploma courses, Master's courses and Ph.D. on specific topics.

Services provided

The following are the main outputs of the project. Capacities will be built in five topic areas: health economics, health management, hospital management, population and demography (reproductive health) and public health.

(i) Institutional Development

Supporting the CSHS to function as a cohesive organization consistently meeting all its agreed goals and objectives.

Establishing media relations and marketing capabilities in the CSHS, such as capability for convening conferences and publishing press releases and electronic materials.

(ii) Developing training courses and building training capacity

Ensuring that the CSHS staff are capable of providing speaker services at public health conferences, legislative meetings, public policy events, research symposia and community activities. Syrian personnel are trained in modern, internationally recognized techniques to teach programmes on behalf of health sector clients.

Providing Management Development learning programmes are planned, designed and provided increasingly over time by CSHS. Continuous training programmes for trainers and an accreditation mechanism will contribute to sustainability.

(iii) Research capacity development

Providing training in modern, internationally recognized techniques in research for health sector clients.

Supporting the dissemination of health policy research data and results through publications and policy briefings for groups and organizations involved in the modernization of the sector by highlighting research that informs health-related policy debates and dialogue.

(iv) Consultancy capacity development

Training in modern, internationally recognized consultancy skills and techniques for health sector clients.

Lessons Learned