

4-Week Training of the West
African Institute of Public Health's
Young Public Health Professionals
in Presentation and Public Speaking
for the 2020 FP Conference

Executive summary

To strengthen the professional capacity and opportunities of members of the West African Institute of Public Health's Young Professionals in Public Health (WAIPH's YPPH), the development Research and Project Centre (dRPC) PACFaH@Scale project provided the eight winning WAIPH members with a four-week extensive training course on presentation and public speaking skills. This was in preparation for their presentation in the 2020 Family Planning national conference. The training course commenced on the 16th of November 2020, with an introductory session on the principle of presentations facilitated by Nosa Tukura and her team of four facilitators. The first training session included all applicants of the WAIPH policy brief writers as well as the dRPC-PAS staff. In addition, both dRPC-PAS and WAIPH coordinators were present for the entirety of the training course. Against the background of the COVID-19 social distancing protocols the training was entirely virtual and interactive regardless of the distance. A total of eight sessions were successfully held and involved four mock presentation sessions where participants were given the opportunity to present their policy briefs and evaluated on each occasion by the training team and both coordinators.

Introduction

The development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) is a catalytic non-profit organization in the public health space, supporting civil society organizations to conduct evidence-based advocacy in the field of public health and is the anchor organization of the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale (PACFaH@Scale) project. While the West African Institute of Public Health's (WAIPH) Young Professionals in Public Health (YPPH) members is a youth-led and youth-focused initiative of fairly recent Public Health graduates around West Africa. The YPPH division is thus centred around public health capacity building /professional development.

The dRPC and WAIPH's YPPH entered into a partnership in October of 2021. The activities covered under the collaboration of the dRPC and WAIPH's YPPH focused on public health research and policy advocacy. In particular, the WAIPH's YPPH members wrote issue briefs of which the best Briefs were selected to be presented at the 6th Nigeria Family Planning Conference. This virtual conference which had a projected 1000 participants nationally and internationally and provided young public health professional with the platform to voice new perspectives on the subject of family planning funding and performance in Nigeria.

Selection process

In 2020 ---- a call for applicants to write issue briefs targeting 60 YPPH members was circulated. The call for applicant provided YPPH members with the opportunity to produce Issue Briefs on 4 topics of relevance to the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale project. The topic options for which the YPPH members choose from included:

- 1) FP 2020- Explaining Nigeria's sub-optimal performance in meeting its Family Planning 2020 commitments
- 2) Inadequacy of Family Planning funding at national and state levels with particular reference to PAS states
- 3) Challenges and opportunities in Implementation of the Primary Health Care Under One Roof policy implementation at state levels
- 4) Domestic resource mobilization for sustainable RI financing in PAS focal states

In addition, to support the WAIPH's YPPH members two webinars, organised by WAIPH senior mentor to provide technical guidance on how to write issue briefs were conducted prior to submissions. A total of 37 issue brief submission were made. Using a selection criterion (Table 1) jointly designed by the WAIPH

coordinator, senior mentor and the dRPC-PAS coordinator a selection of 8 winning issue briefs were made.

SECTIONS	CRITERIA	COMMENTS
STRUCTURE	Text is broken into sections of introduction, policy review or analysis of issue and policy recommendations	
	Key points are easy to identify	
	Headings cue the key points that follow	
CONTENT	Aim is clear	
	Problem is clearly stated and backed with evidence	
	Argument is presented in a good sequence and understandable without specialised knowledge while also displaying originality and independent thinking	
	Recommended actions are clear and specific	
	Recommendations flow logically from the evidence presented	
	Does the content address the call	
STYLE	Words are simple, well-constructed and reflect good grasp of English Language, clear and concise	
	Sentences are not cluttered with unnecessary words or phrases	
	Text shows a critical understanding of the subject matter	
	Evidence is well referenced and refrains from plagiarizing literature	
	Logically structured writing	
	Writing shows a grasp of subject matter and evidence of wide reading	
	Writing displays originality and independent thinking	
Issue Brief is score out of 100% across 3 (three) Loci: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structure 20% 2. Content 50% 3. Style 30% 		

Table 1

Training objectives

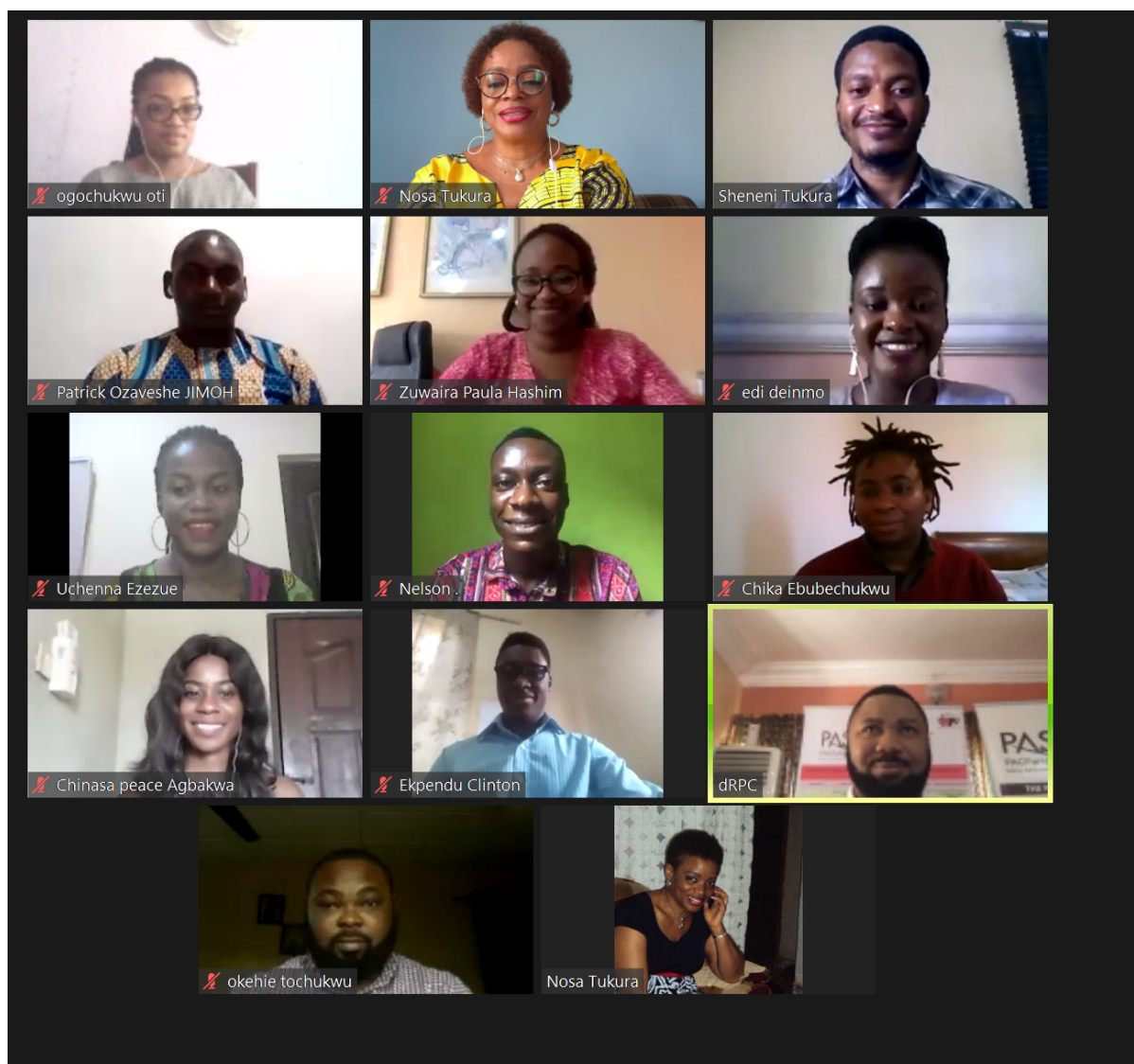
The primary objective of the training organised for WAIPH's YPPH by PACFaH@Scale is to strengthen the professional capacity and opportunities of members of the WAIPH's YPPH by providing them learning opportunities in the form

of a training. Specifically, a training course on Presentation and Public Speaking Skills for young public health professionals. Further, the training aims to increase WAIPH's YPPH engagement and activism of members through participation in the Nigeria National Family Planning Conference. This, in so doing, aimed to strengthen the collective and organizational development of WAIPH YPPH.

Training

The four-week Presentation and Public Speaking training course commenced on the 16th of November 2020, with an introductory session on the principle of presentations facilitated by Nosa Tukura and her team of four facilitators. Present at the first day of training was also all applicants of the WAIPH issue brief competition as well as the dRPC-PAS staff. Day 2 of the first week of training focused on assessing trainees' presentation skills by giving each giving a 15-minute presentation on the subject of their issue briefs.

The second week of training focused primarily on the principles of presentation skills. Whilst the third week of training was dedicated to a review of week 2's learnings on the principles of presentation and public speaking and the application to the YPPH issue brief winner presentations. Each winner allowed a mock presentation with an evaluation and feedback from dRPC and WAIPH coordinators and fellow trainees. The final week of training thus involved a rehearsal session with further evaluation and feedback as well as a ceremony presentation of award of certificates to the 8 YPPH participants.



Presentation day

The 2020 of Nigeria's biennial Family Planning conference is the 6th in the series. The conference which was held on a virtual platform as a result of the COVID-19 social distancing regulations brought together all family planning stakeholders to provide opportunity to fostering policy debate, exchange ideas, share experiences on the progress made so far, identify emerging issues on family planning/reproductive health as well chart the way forward towards improving the existing situation.

The session for WAIPH's YPPH was held on day 2 of the FP conference- Thursday 10th December 9:00-9:45 am and the session titled – "Young Public Health Professionals Analyze Nigeria's Failing Family Planning 2020 commitments – Which way forward". This session was hosted by the Director-General of the West African Institute of Public Health, Dr Francis Ohanyido and the dRPC coordinator, Zuwaira

Paula Hashim. The 8 Young Public Health Professionals were each given the opportunity to discuss the topic of their issue briefs.

