

Columbia University Nursing Collaborating Center for Developing Nursing in Iraq

Richard M. Garfield, DrPH, RN

Outcomes	Strategies/Approaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Help bring attention and prestige to the nursing profession</i> 	<p>Link MOH and Iraqi University Schools of Nursing to Network of International Recognized Universities – the participating Collaborating Centers for curriculum development – priority areas to include community health/public health nursing, maternal and child health, and health management and research.</p> <p>Organize high profile visits of nursing leaders from the US, especially nurse-consultants – aiming to establish a group of around 20 consultative leaders with a commitment to Iraq. If 10 of them will engage in an average of 2 visits per year, for a period of 2 weeks, this will put a rotating group of nurse leaders in Iraq for teaching and consultation for approximately 40 weeks out of the year.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Linking Iraqi University Schools of Nursing to a University with Specialty Expertise in Curriculum Development</i> 	<p>University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, and University of Illinois to coordinate efforts of this group of nurse-consultants from universities in the US and UK,</p> <p>Develop a network in Iraq and among partner universities in the US for broad-band Web-based distance learning, conferencing, and consulting. Start with in-country workshops in or among the schools in Iraq in evidence-based teaching methods (i.e., modernize and experiment with proven, innovative teaching approaches.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strengthen the 4 existing Nursing School BSN programs and help establish such programs at Basrah and Mustansariya Universities</i> 	<p>Proposal says to focus first on Sulimaniya; more effective to focus more on Baghdad University – the pace-setting university and the only one with Masters and Doctoral programs. The leadership program for nursing should involve all the schools (especially faculty in primary care fields, MOH personnel, and MoHigher Ed personnel). Provide a variety of curriculums and encourage innovation among the schools, especially in teaching methods and assessment of student competency.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Development of Associate Degree Nursing programs at a junior college level to facilitate nurse to work in hands-on care</i> 	<p>Work with all 4 University Schools of Nursing in Iraq and Ministry of Higher Education to develop such programs by elevating hospital-based schools of nursing via the development of competency-based curriculum. Design articulation strategies to assure smooth articulation from technical level to baccalaureate level nursing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Development of</i> 	<p>Facilitate in-service supervision by nursing experts in the</p>

<p><i>community health nursing roles</i></p>	<p>Nursing School consultative group; Work closely with leaders of community medicine training programs and the 3 model PHC centers. Design articulation of in-service training with advance degree preparation. Develop joint training of community health nurses and family physicians to foster clinical team concept.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strengthening of Nursing Administration and Functions in Hospitals and Other Health Units</i> 	<p>Coordinate training of nursing educators in the 4 Universities in management and administration through - on-site short courses, -Internet based-training, -provision of texts</p> <p>Organize in-service training courses to be given by the Iraqi University specialists.</p> <p>Develop training modules in utilization management, quality assurance, disease reporting and budgeting for practice management for nurses.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Providing Technical Assistance to the Nursing Office, MoH</i> 	<p>Nurse-consultants to mentor one-on-one staff of the national nursing office in an ongoing manner, in areas including primary care, well-child care, maternal health initiatives.</p> <p>Nurse consultants will assist the MOH nursing office to participate in policy discussions and program design in critical program areas such as maternal/child health, communicable disease control, and health workforce management issues.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Helping to Assure Nursing Roles and Participation in MoH activities and Programs outside the Office of Nursing</i> 	<p>Nurse-consultants to take part in relevant other areas including primary care, well-child care, maternal health initiatives</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop nursing leadership group among schools of nursing, MoH, and the professional organization</i> 	<p>Coordinate periodic meetings, mainly by networking, among nurse leaders in Iraq. Link individual leadership projects to a nurse-consultant for ongoing support and development</p> <p>Coordinate with the Office of the Chief Nursing Officer, Surgeon General's Office, WHO, and Office of International health to Organize an International Study Tour for Leadership Group</p>

Network of schools already committed to sharing academic resources with Iraq include the Schools of Nursing at Columbia, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Hopkins, U of Michigan, U of Washington, U of Arizona, and San Francisco State University. Each has faculty and a dean and faculty interested in freeing up faculty time to facilitate 2-week field consultations on a repeated basis for selected faculty. In this way a continuum of support can be provided both through repeat visits of an individual, and the continuous presence of a rotating group of faculty from these schools.

The first three schools are offering to provide leadership and coordination for the group. Division of responsibility for financial management, field coordination and logistics, and elaboration of the broadband network for coordination and communication will be elaborated. the coalition will be coordinated to provide concrete deliverables. Together we aim to work toward a sustainable process of curriculum development. Initial curriculum products to be delivered will include:

In Iraq, and in the US, net-based learning will be developed among this network of schools. This means that beyond email and access to the internet, the web can be used for expanded teleconferencing meetings of the network, Iraqi faculty can be virtually in hands-on contact with their colleagues in between field visits, and leading graduate students and MOH staff can take part in classrooms in the participating schools via remote web-based access.

The partnership will depend on Jordanian Collaborating Center for assistance in orienting and coordinating and will be fully integrated into the broad-band network of this project.