



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HRH2030
HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH IN 2030

SUCCESS STORY

Introducing Online Training for Health Workers in the Philippines

USAID partners with the Philippines Department of Health to develop a new e-learning platform



Photo: Chemonics International

Representatives from USAID HRH2030 and other implementing partners pilot test the new e-learning modules

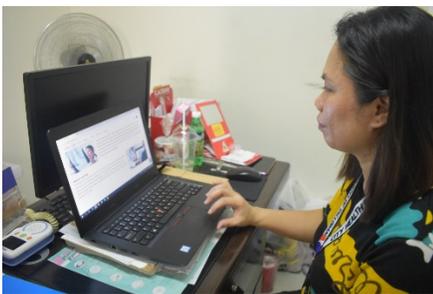


Photo: Chemonics International

Public Health Nurse Kristina Lim navigates through course options on the DOH Academy e-learning platform at her workstation in Tacloban Abucay District Health Center

As a nurse supervisor, Kristina Lim oftentimes travels long distances from her duty station at Abucay District Health Center in Leyte to attend training for Department of Health (DOH) programs, temporarily leaving her rural area without adequate coverage. “Spending hours of travel from my station to the training venue, which is sometimes outside of the region, to attend face-to-face training for several days is really challenging,” explains nurse Kristina.

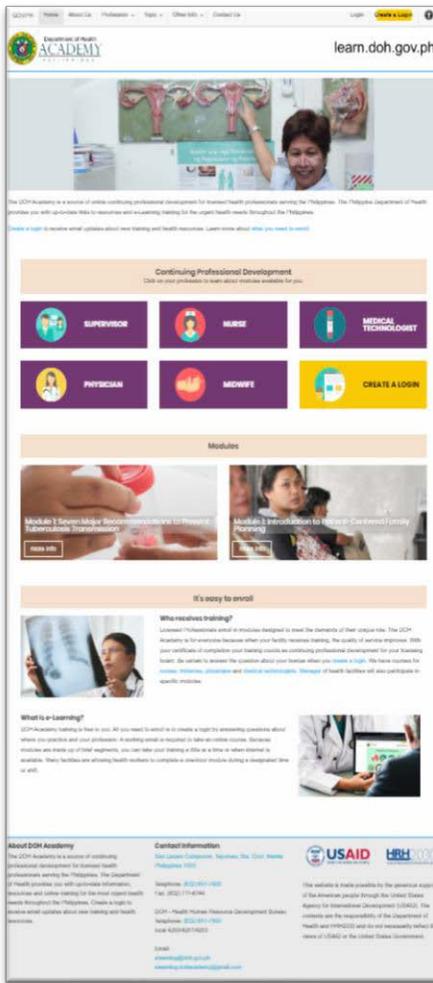
The thought of saving time and attending training courses remotely through an e-learning platform has many benefits. Nurse Kristina describes, “E-learning is a game changer. The fact that e-learning is self-paced, and courses can be taken up at my convenience and even in the comfort of my home is very appealing.”

For a nation like the Philippines, whose population tops the world internet usage index with an average of 10 hours a day, having online access to health learning is vital to maintaining optimal service delivery. For that reason, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the HRH2030 program, has been working with the DOH to implement and scale up an e-learning initiative.

The DOH Academy’s e-learning portal, the first of its kind in the Philippines, is standardizing core training content for health workers into online learning modules centralized in one location. Dr. Kenneth Ronquillo, Director of the Health Human Resource Development Bureau at the DOH, notes, “With USAID’s assistance, we are introducing creative ways to develop and enhance the capacity of our health workers to respond to the needs of Filipinos.”

On March 31, 2019, the DOH e-learning platform went live for pilot testing at learn.doh.gov.ph, with three courses available for health workers in the Philippines—competency-based family planning, adolescent health, and TB infection control. After taking the adolescent health course online, midwife Ana Liza, also from Abucay District, shared that the “platform is easy to navigate, user-friendly, the content is comprehensive and clear. The readings and resources in the toolbox are also very helpful to equip us with the much-needed knowledge for our practice.”

Learners can now access the e-learning platform free online, at any time, from any connected location, and can download modules, reducing health worker absence from facilities to travel and attend in-person training. E-learning also addresses the common complaint from local chief executives to the DOH for pulling out health workers from



Snapshot of DOH Academy e-learning portal

duty to participate in training courses.

“This way more health workers have the opportunity to acquire much needed knowledge and skills and at the same time reduce the time they spend away from their work stations,” said Ms. Jasper Joy Dumaguing, Regional Training Specialist at the Central Visayas Center for Health Development.

By prioritizing health workers’ professional development, the platform takes the Philippines a step closer to reaching its vision of universal health care and meeting its sustainable development goals. The system will save both time and money and can mobilize new and up-to-date learning resources to quickly train tens of thousands of health workers simultaneously to improve service delivery and health outcomes.

“USAID partners with the Philippine Government to build self-reliance in planning, financing, and implementing solutions to solve its human resources for health challenges,” said Patrick Wesner, USAID/Philippines Acting Mission Director.

To ensure sustainability and institutionalization of e-learning, the DOH has committed to allocating resources to manage the online system beginning in 2020 and use their own funding to develop 20 additional e-learning modules.