



University of Nairobi

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



PUBLIC HEALTH FOR HEARING IMPAIRMENT - SHORT COURSE

COURSE OVERVIEW

WHO **estimates** that there are 466 million persons in the world with disabling **hearing loss** (6.1% of the world's population). Most causes are preventable or treatable. Hearing loss is expected to increase with the exposure to high levels of environmental noise and with an ageing population.

A public health approach is advocated to tackle the growing problem of hearing loss and ear disease. Improving the delivery of services, particularly in underrepresented communities, requires a primary and community health care approach.

The aim of the course is to expand capacity building for public health knowledge and skills in ear and hearing health (EHH).

The key learning objectives of the course are:

1. Relate the principles and practice of public health and the application of prevention strategies against hearing impairment.

2. Review the epidemiology and evidence for ear disease and hearing loss globally, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries, and disadvantaged groups in high-income countries.
3. Examine population-based research methods (qualitative and quantitative) used in ear and hearing care.
4. Appraise the role of primary ear and hearing care and its training, for prevention and early detection of hearing loss.
5. Understand the principles of planning, and develop a plan for ear and hearing health priorities appropriate for a local health system.

We use innovative and interactive teaching methods including group exercises and projects. A detailed course manual and work-book is provided, and all course material, presentations and relevant papers are provided on a memory stick for each participant.

Key outputs from the course include:

1. Training participants in public health approaches
2. Raising awareness and advocacy for hearing loss at a local level
3. Assessment of need and gaps within participant's region's health programmes
4. Initiating the development of national and local programmes, and specific screening programmes such as for newborns and school health.