COVID-19 Vaccination Team Training
For Underserved Regions
WiRED International Center for Community and Global Health
Claremont Graduate University

At present, vaccinations offer the only real resolution to the COVID-19 pandemic. Masks and distance help keep the virus at bay, but they are not long-term solutions. Effective vaccines are now being released and, in time, they will reach underserved regions. *The missing links in the vaccination chain will be trained people to administer the vaccinations in local communities*. Without trained workers, vaccination programs grind to a halt. Large organizations and governments can provide the vaccines, but where will low-resource countries find enough trained people to vaccinate the population?

Objective: The objective of WiRED's program is to train people at the local level to move vaccines safely from central drop-off points to communities, to prepare the communities for vaccinations, to properly screen patients, to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and to monitor patients after the shot. WiRED's program trains grassroots vaccinators to perform these tasks and offers refresher training to retired medical professionals who are called back into service to help with vaccinations.

Design and setting: Each vaccinator will receive 20 hours of WiRED's curriculum based strictly on the World Health Organization's (WHO) vaccination protocols. Students will also receive an additional 20 hours of instruction on basic health, including human anatomy and physiology, principles of infectious disease control and coronavirus infections. These soon-to-be frontline workers will also receive an additional five hours of clinical practice.

Main outcomes expected: The global process from manufacture to delivery of vaccines will be organized outside local communities. Then, ministries of health and local agencies will administer the vaccinations. Clearly, there will not be enough local doctors and nurses to deliver shots to hundreds of millions of people. Local vaccinators will be the fastest and most effective way to vaccinate people in thousands of communities. Unless we vaccinate significant portions of the global population, COVID-19 will linger for years and affect all countries.

Curriculum (based on WHO guidelines):

Module 1: Introduction to COVID-19 vaccination training
Module 2: Storage, handling, delivery and waste management of COVID-19 vaccines
Module 3: Organizing COVID-19 vaccination sessions
Module 4: Vaccinating process and procedures
Module 5: AEFI monitoring for COVID-19 vaccination
Module 6: Recording and monitoring COVID-19 vaccination
Module 7: Communication with the community about COVID-19 vaccination

Supplemental training modules from WiRED's Community Health Worker curriculum:

- Anatomy fundamentals, 2 parts
- Understanding communicable diseases, 2 parts
- Coronavirus
- Understanding vital signs and basic patient assessment
- Communication skills

Timing and follow-on training: With adequate funding, WiRED will make available the vaccination training program throughout underserved regions of the world. Assuming vaccines will arrive in mid-late 2021, it is essential that we begin preparing these teams now. After vaccinators have finished training, we will require each to complete monthly update courses by way of WiRED's continuing medical education program, available online. Specifically, each month the new vaccinators will take a COVID update on vaccination procedures. As regions approach vaccine delivery dates, we will provide additional online information and training, preparing the vaccinators to step into their critical roles as soon as the vaccines are locally available. We will also provide training for local program managers who will coordinate logistics and operational components. Finally, WiRED will provide separate training modules targeted specifically to the version of COVID-19 vaccine each community will receive.

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