The COECSA-RCOphth VISION 2020 LINK

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Human Resources for Eye Health: Bridging the Gap
16 September 2013
VISION 2020 LINKS Programme

- Founded in 2004 at ICEH
- Needs-based partnership programme
- Addresses human resource development in Africa
- Joint learning and skills transfer
- 25 links to date
COECSA Background

- EACO-RCOphth VISION 2020 LINK established in 2007
- COECSA (College of Ophthalmology of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa) recently developed from EACO (Eastern Africa College of Ophthalmologists)
- Eight countries in the new organisation
  - Uganda
  - Tanzania
  - Kenya
  - Ethiopia
  - Malawi
  - Zambia
  - Rwanda
  - Burundi
COECSA's mandate is to contribute to Human Resources for Health (HRH) through:

- quality training in ophthalmology
- setting standards for professional ophthalmic practice
- facilitating continuous professional development (CPD)
- promoting research which advances ophthalmology in the region

Its establishment was informed by similar initiatives, such as the medical colleges in South Africa and the UK.

COECSA, however, aims to address the unique needs in Eastern Africa, based on evidence and priorities identified in the region.
COECSA-RCOphth LINK

- Awarded two successive grants from Department for International Development (DFID) / THET
- Grants obtained, run and managed by the VISION 2020 LINKS Programme
- First grant enabled examiner training and development of EACO Fellowship examination for the three countries in EACO (Kenya, Tz, Uganda)
- New grant of £416,000 over two years for capacity building in Eastern Africa
Project aims

- To build human resource capacity in the eight COECSA countries
- To empower COECSA, through its VISION 2020 LINK with RCOphthal, through:
  - Examiner training
  - Train the Trainers courses
  - Curriculum harmonisation (MMeds and OCOs)
  - On-line CPD development
  - Mentoring workshop
  - Guideline development training
Activities - Exams

- Examiner Training Workshop (Sept 2013 and 2014)
  - two external RCOphth examiners to COECSA Fellowship exam (next week in Mbarara, Uganda)
- Exam observation in UK
  - two COECSA exam leads to UK to observe Pt II Fellowship
- Publication of examiners training manual, based on RCOphth and adapted to reflect local EA experience and need
Activities – Train the Trainers

- TTT workshop for three days for 16 COECSA members from eight countries (Sep 2013 and 2014)
- Preceded by Guideline Writing workshop
- Led by RCOphth trainers
Activities-curriculum development

• Harmonising the COECSA curriculum for MMeds (trainee ophthalmologists) and OCOs (Ophthalmic Clinical Officers) across the eight countries
  – Workshops to harmonise training curricula, attended by 15 MMed and 8 OCO trainers (Jan 2014 and 2015)
  – RCOphth curriculum leads
Activities - CPD

• CPD exchange
  – 8 from COECSA to participate in RCOphth Congress (May 2013 and 2014)
  – 4 from RCOphth to participate in COECSA Congress (Aug 2013 and 2014)
• Setting up on-line CPD for COECSA
  – Workshops
    (Feb 2014 and 2015)
Activities – Mentoring Forum

• Mentoring Forum
  – RCOphth to hold mentoring forum for 24 newly qualified ophthalmologists from 8 countries (Feb 2014)
Workshop to share learning

- Workshop to share learning to be attended by key RCOphth and COECSA participants (Feb 2015)
- Review outcomes from project:
  - Examiner training
  - TTT courses
  - Harmonised curricula
  - On-line CPD
  - Mentoring