

Program Background

ChildFund Zambia and its implementing partner, African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF), are implementing a 60 month (5 years) Program called the **Zambia Nurse and Life Skills Training Program** in partnership with The MasterCard Foundation.

Program Description

The Zambia Nurse and Life Skills Training Program is implementing e-learning (distance education) as a methodology for training Registered Nurses at government Nursing Schools.

The Nursing curriculum consists of a combination of e-learning materials, traditional face-to-face sessions with tutors and hands-on training in practicum sites. The educational content has been approved by the General Nursing Council and includes material that is covered in traditional Nursing programmes.

The curriculum is supplemented with Life Skills training- taught using e-learning material and traditional face-to-face sessions. This focuses on coping and self-management, critical thinking, decision making, interpersonal and communication skills.

The period of training is approximately three (3) years and three (3) months and the terms mimic that of traditional nursing programmes.



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What is eLearning?

eLearning can be defined as 'learning facilitated and supported through the use of information and communications technology'. Learning is the vital element.¹

The term 'e-learning' therefore covers the use of computers and technology as a vehicle for knowledge exchange within teaching and learning.

Benefits of eLearning

- eLearning allows students increased flexibility and control over their studies. Students are able to learn whenever and wherever they want as long as they have access to a computer. Classwork can be scheduled around family and work commitments. eLearning also helps to decrease the time and cost of traveling to an educational institution.
- eLearning allows students to study the content at their own pace. One can control the amount of time spent on any particular topic- allowing them to spend additional time on difficult items or skip material already understood.
- eLearning is interactive and hands-on. The use of a variety of multimedia in e-Learning increases student involvement, reinforces the learning experience, and can produce a very rich learning experience.
- eLearning can help one develop knowledge of the Internet and computer skills that are helpful throughout one's life and career.

Benefits of Zambia Nurse and Life Skills Training Program

- eLearning programming is student-focused and provides students with increased control over their studies.
- Students under this program also participate in face-to-face classroom teaching and will complete traditional clinical hours.
- Students under this program receive enhanced life skills training to support their transition to employment.
- Students are paired with peer mentors who assist them in managing their studies.
- Students on this program have access to scholarship support to assist the most vulnerable.
- Students who successfully complete this program will be employed by the Ministry of Health and other private partners.
- The program increases access to opportunities to pursue nursing education.

Which Schools are offering this Program?

This program is being implemented in the 12 government School of Nursing namely:

Kitwe
Ndola
Mansa
Chipata
Kasama
Livingstone
Kabwe
Monze
Chikankata
Mukinge
Mufulira
Solwezi

How Do I Apply?

Once the above-mentioned schools advertise, the application forms can be obtained from the respective schools at a fee. Shortlisted applicants are required to pay a non-refundable interview fee on the day of interview, to be advised by the advertising institution.

Requirements for Applicants

One must:

- be between the ages of 16 and 24
- be a Zambian Citizen with a National Registration Card or Passport
- be a school leaver (grade 12)
- have 5 credits with English language, Mathematics, any compulsory Science subject and any other two subjects at credit level or better
- have own accommodation in the town where the school of choice is located

¹ (Southall, 2013, e-Learning Pedagogy, Programme, <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/elearningpedagogy.aspx>)