

CBM Christian Blind Mission: “Primary Ear & Hearing Care tasks sharing training for Zimbabwe and Zambia health and community workers”

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Abstract

CBM is an international non-governmental organization for development, also a non-State actor in official relations with the World Health Organisation (WHO) since 1989. As such, CBM contributes to the design, revision, publication, dissemination and use of WHO resources and tools for Ear and Hearing Care (EHC) among WHO Member States, specifically in low- and middle- income countries.

CBM’s work in EHC uses a Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) approach, including awareness raising, capacity building and advocacy interventions, aimed at influencing authorities, policy makers and national stakeholders, alongside local partners and CBM Country Offices.

This communication details CBM’s field experience and outcomes using WHO’s new Primary EHC Training Manual and Community Resources, for tasks sharing training of health and community workers from Zimbabwe and Zambia, through a Training of Trainers workshop held in Harare.



Left to Right: 1. Ms Lucia Nkomo, Zimbabwe co-organizing partner WizEar, with Dr Diego Santana, CBM. 2. Sign Language & Tactile interpretation for deaf and deafblind participants. 3. PEHC workshop groups work in progress. 4. Dr Racheal Hapunda, ENT Zambia and co-facilitator, demonstrating ear syringing. 5. Group photo (incomplete)

Objectives

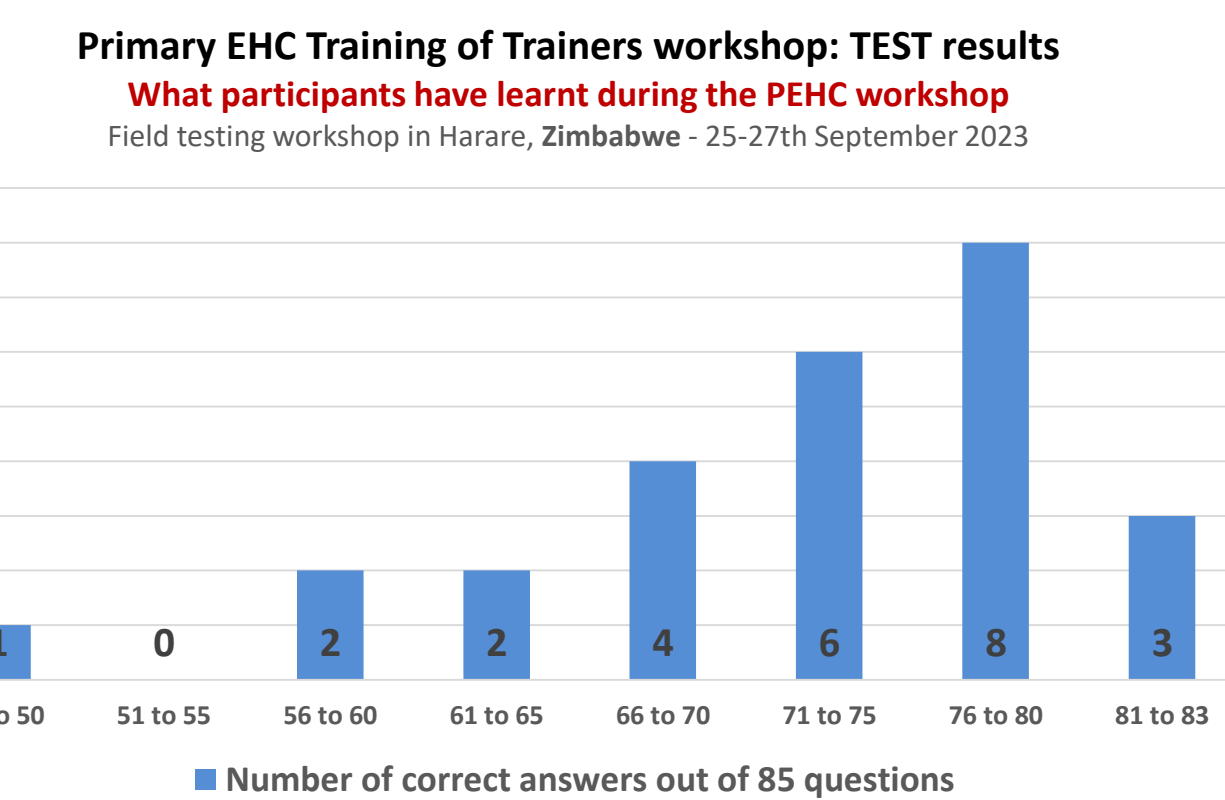
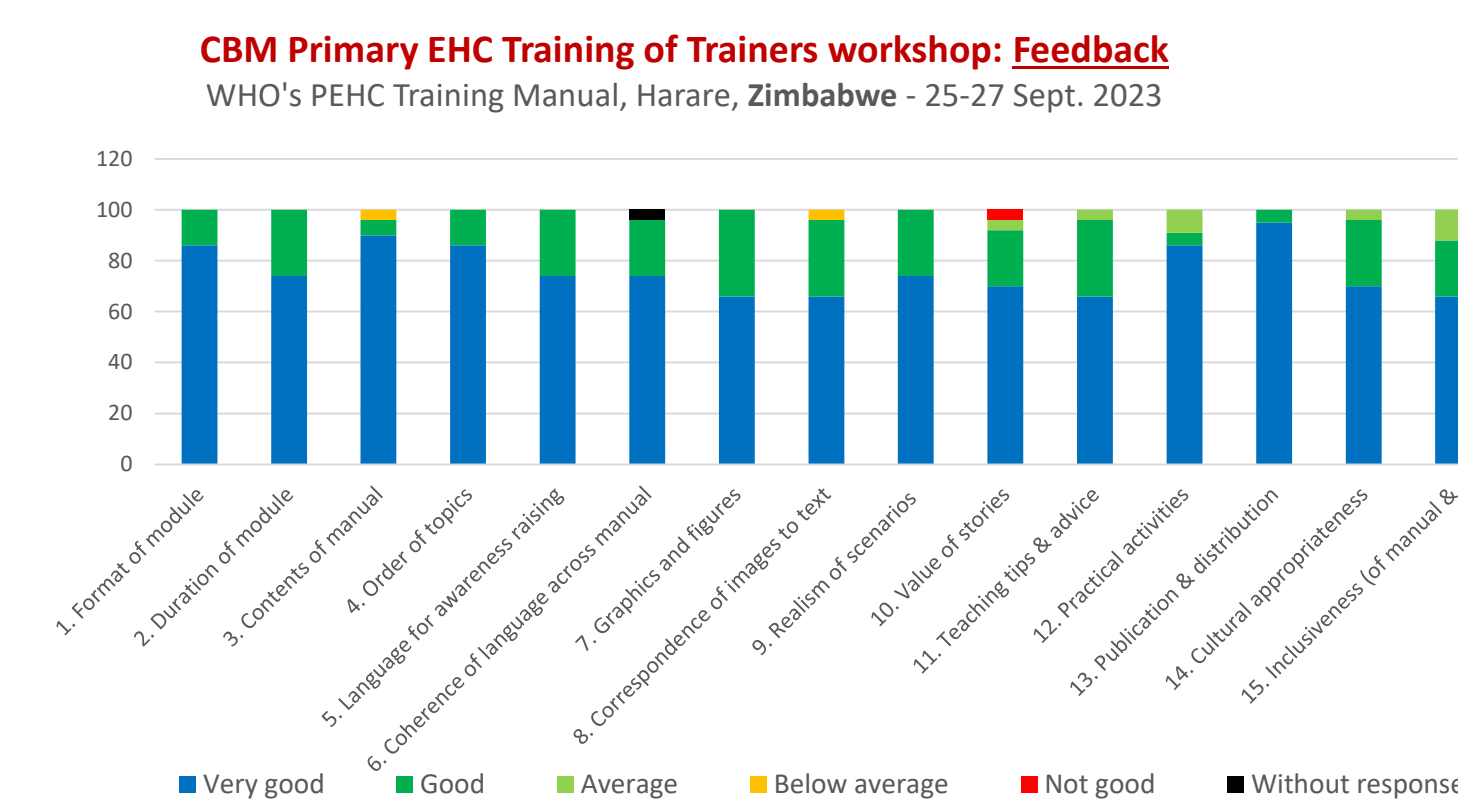
1. Strengthen Ear and Hearing Care in Zimbabwe and Zambia.
2. Deliver first CBM-led Primary Ear & Hearing Care (PEHC) workshop using new WHO’s PEHC Training Manual and Community Resources.
3. Share CBM’s experiences on high-level advocacy pursuing inclusive EHC within national health systems and services, contributing to Universal Health Coverage in limited-resources settings.

Methods and Materials

- For this Training of Trainers workshop, CBM used WHO’s new EHC resources, launched on 3rd March 2023: PEHC Training Manual, Trainer’s Handbook, Annexes & Community Resources, 25-27 September 2023.
- Programme was agreed among facilitators, organizing local partner & CBM International Country Office Zimbabwe.
- Lead facilitator Diego Santana, informed WHO-HQ’s EHC programme head. WizEar involved WHO CO Zimbabwe.
- 42 participants (23 female & 19 male) from Zimbabwe and Zambia, several participants contributed as local faculty.
- High-level strategic meeting, 28-29 Sept. with MoH & MoEd. of Zimbabwe & Zambia, OPDs, academia and CSOs.

Results

Data gathered through feedback questionnaires was consolidated and analysed. A final test to evaluate knowledge learning was passed to participants, consisting in 85 True/False questions, based on WHO Manual’s Pre- and Post- tests, with additional questions for Module 10, see below.



- 96 responses (64%) rated the PEHC contents as “Very Good” or “Good”
- 100% participants liked all the sections and would not remove any of them
- 76.09% would not add or change any section of the Primary EHC resource
- 26 persons took the final test, all participants passed, scoring >50% correct

Conclusion

Improving EHC is a multidisciplinary task which needs everyone's support, from WHO and its Member States, to professional bodies, academic institutions, persons with disability and Civil Society Organizations, at local, regional and global levels. Capacity building in EHC is a recognized strategic approach leading to effective health and community services strengthening. The appropriate resources and tools are freely available and well received, after practical field-testing, the remains task is to join efforts and contribute to their dissemination and implementation. Let’s increase the audibility and contribute to the advancement of **Ear and Hearing Care for all!**

References

- “Ear & hearing care basic resource”, WHO Press 2020: <https://www.who.int/publications/item/basic-ear-and-hearing-care-resource>
- Primary Ear and hearing care training manual, Trainer’s Handbook, Annexures and Community Resources” WHO Press 2023: <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/primary-ear-and-hearing-care-training-manual>
- World Report on Hearing: WHO Press 2021: <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/highlighting-priorities-for-ear-and-hearing-care>