

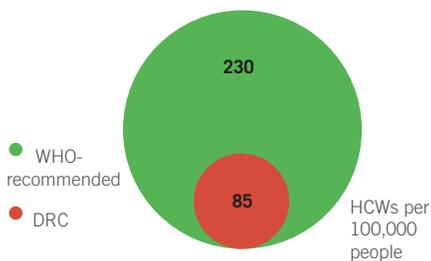
# Democratic Republic of the Congo

## *Nursing Education Partnership Initiative*

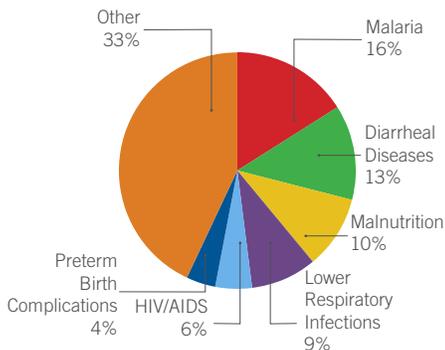
**About:** NEPI is addressing critical shortages of health care workers by strengthening nursing education in six sub-Saharan African countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, and Zambia.

### Key Health Challenges

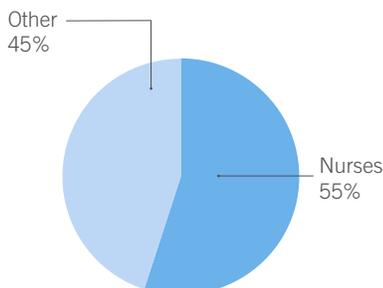
Health Care Worker Density in DRC



Leading Causes of Death in DRC



Health Care Providers in DRC



### Background

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), nurses and midwives account for over half of all health care providers. A severe health worker shortage, however, is placing considerable strain on the existing workforce, hindering DRC's ability to combat malaria, HIV, and other illnesses that contribute to the country's high disease burden. Sufficient numbers of adequately trained nurses and midwives are needed to address essential population-based health care needs, including antiretroviral treatment for HIV.

In 2011, ICAP launched the **Nursing Education Partnership Initiative (NEPI)** with support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to improve the quantity and quality of the nursing and midwifery workforce. Through NEPI, ICAP is working in partnership with DRC's Ministry of Health (MOH) to enhance nursing and midwifery education at four institutions:

- **Kamalondo Institute of Medical Technology**
- **Kinshasa Superior Institute of Medical Technology**
- **Kintambo Technical Medical Institute**
- **Lubumbashi Superior Institute of Medical Technology**

In DRC, NEPI is addressing the following challenges to nursing and midwifery education: 1) critical shortages of nurses and midwives; 2) limited quality assurance systems; 3) limited opportunities for advanced study or career development; and 4) under-resourced teaching and learning facilities.

### Achievements

#### **Strengthening Nursing Education Infrastructure**

NEPI is improving student access to rural practicum sites; upgrading classrooms; and outfitting skills labs where nursing and midwifery students complete clinical placements. Examples of NEPI's impact in DRC:

- Developed infrastructure and resource requirement plans for all four partner schools to guide the refurbishment of classrooms, clinical laboratories, libraries, and equipment distribution.
- Provided teaching resources to all NEPI schools including: text books, anatomical models, task trainers, clinical supplies, computers, and printers.
- Installed servers at Kinshasa Superior Institute of Medical Technology and Kamalondo Institute of Medical Technology.
- Developed equipment use, security, and maintenance protocols for each partner school.

#### **Improving the Capacity of Nursing and Midwifery Faculty**

NEPI is expanding educational and career advancement opportunities for nursing and midwifery faculty to build capacity and address worker attrition.

- Trained faculty members from the four partner schools in teaching methodologies, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and mentoring skills.
- Trained faculty, tutors, and mentors from the four partner schools and nursing and midwifery associations in workshops such as: research and supervision methods and PMTCT of HIV.

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

## *Nursing Education Partnership Initiative*

**About ICAP:** A global leader in HIV/AIDS and health systems strengthening, ICAP provides technical assistance and implementation support to governments and NGOs in more than 21 countries. ICAP has supported work at more than 5,250 health facilities around the world and more than 2.5 million people have received HIV treatment through ICAP-supported programs.

### **Key Achievements**

First-year nursing students enrolled in pre-service education programs:

**12,143**

Number of nursing students graduating from pre-service training programs:

**4,614**

Number of nursing students successfully completing skills labs:

**13,525**

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- Trained faculty members in active teaching methods associated with the new curriculum.

### **Improving the Quality and Relevance of Teaching and Learning**

NEPI is improving the quality of teaching and learning in nursing programs through the introduction of competency-based curricula, clinical mentorship and preceptorship, and innovative teaching techniques.

- Trained nursing and midwifery graduates in HIV/AIDS essential competencies.
- Supported the training faculty members in needs-based trainings such as active teaching methods and problem-based learning.
- Implemented new teaching techniques for the clinical classroom at each school.
- Revised advanced-level nursing curriculum for national implementation.
- Supported the development of an education module in evidence-based practice for secondary and advanced-level nursing.

### **Strengthening Governance, Leadership, and Administrative Capacity of Nursing Education Institutions**

ICAP is providing technical and capacity-building support to strengthen leadership, education and finance management, and quality assurance at nursing education institutions.

- Trained members of the four partner institutions in grants management.
- Supported the final validation of the common research template used by PhD faculty members from Kinshasa Superior Institute of Medical Technology, MOH, Ministry of Education, and Kinshasa School of Public Health.

### **Enhancing Partnerships in Nursing Education Networks**

ICAP supports the NEPI Technical Working Group, which provides oversight and direction for the NEPI project. It's comprised of members from:

- Ministries of Health, Education, and Finance
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Nurses and Midwives Association
- Japanese International Cooperation Agency
- IntraHealth Medical Assistance
- United Nations Fund for Population Agency



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