

**YEAR 2 SUMMATIVE CONGRESS FOR ARC WEST AND CENTRAL**

***Improving the performance of nurses and midwives providing Option B+ and pediatric HIV services at high volume sites***

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016

This Summative meeting marks the end of the first year of ARC West and Central and the beginning of our second year together.

I would like first, on behalf of the ARC Faculty and all participants to thank our colleagues from Cote d'Ivoire for hosting this meeting. I know you gave a great deal of support with the administrative arrangements to make sure everything ran smoothly, especially for the DRC team.

It was great to have so many guests yesterday from Cote d'Ivoire Ministry of Health, CDC and WHO and I hope they enjoyed joining us as much as we enjoyed having them join us.

The highlights from the 2016 International AIDS Conference gave us some really useful information which was greatly appreciated by those of us who could not be there and the presentation stimulated much discussion.

Most importantly, this meeting was the opportunity for you to share the final report from your projects. All teams gained valuable information about care, and care deficits, in your countries and as a team and as individuals you learned so much implementing your projects, especially about project management and financial management. You came to the learning sessions to listen, share, learn and challenge each other and you have done all those things. You connected with each other, you connected with your colleagues, and you connected and raised your profile with other key people in your respective countries.

But it was not always easy. You are all busy people with important and busy jobs. Fitting in project work was challenging and you are now more aware of the realities for next time. And it is very pleasing that there will be a next time, a Year 2 for ARC West and Central. Another opportunity to develop a project, or build on your Year 1 project, to improve HIV care and treatment and nursing and midwifery care.

We spent a lot of time during the past two days looking at and becoming familiar with the Year 2 assessment tools, the project guidelines, and the proposal process. And what a wonderful opportunity we were given by Cote d'Ivoire to trial the facility assessment tools. We want to thank Cote d'Ivoire for your organisation of the site visit. Please convey our sincere thanks and appreciation to the hospital staff for so generously and graciously making their time available to us. We learned so much from this exercise and the assessment tools are now much more familiar and less complicated as they first appeared. This was such a valuable activity.

The presentation this afternoon on implementing a quality improvement project, drew all the various threads together. Why are we here? Why are we undertaking projects? Because we have identified care deficits and we want to make positive change. That is why your projects are called 'quality improvement projects'. The facility assessments will help you identify the deficit you want to address and point you to the indicators that will help you measure whether quality has been improved.

We had a quick look at establishing nursing and midwifery legislation and regulation to support nursing and midwifery practice. This is a conversation we need to continue next time we meet. Nursing and midwifery practice will only be enhanced if nurses and midwives are setting the standards for education and practice.

It is good to know we will meet again, so this is not goodbye, but au revoir. There is work to be done with the facility assessments, identifying the issue you want to address in your Year 2 projects, and submitting your project proposal. I am looking forward so much to seeing what you decide to address in Year 2.

ON your behalf I would like to thank the staff of Care and Health for looking after us so well – Alexi, Ninon and Nick – and for making sure the transport, audio visuals, printing, and other administration was seamless and smooth.

Thank you for your active participation in this Summative and for your collegiality. Safe journey home and take care of yourselves so you can take care of your people.

**JILL ILIFFE**

Executive Secretary

Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation

ARC Faculty