

Improving access to health information for health care workers

Healthlink Worldwide delivered an initial five-day training workshop on improving access to health information for health care workers to 10 participants from five branch libraries and two staff from Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), in Nairobi, in April 2010.

The workshop is part of a project called “Increasing access to relevant health information for primary healthcare providers through the development of local resources and effective health sections in Kenyan public libraries” – led by Book Aid International, in partnership with KNLS and Healthlink Worldwide - which plans to establish health corners in 15 branch libraries in Kenya over the next three years.

The training focused on:

- Identification and prioritisation of information needs of primary health care providers;
- Provision of resources to meet identified needs;
- Making use of available resources – both print and electronic;
- Developing the library’s own communication resources;
- Delivering health information to library users;
- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of health information service, and
- Action planning for individual libraries.

The workshop used a variety of participatory approaches and included a field visit to the Nairobi Women’s Hospital to undertake a needs assessment with staff and to pre-test developed resources. It was informal and reflective to promote active learning by doing. During the post-workshop evaluation the participants said that the overall purpose of the workshop was well achieved and described the training as useful, successful, fulfilling, lively, fantastic, informative, excellent and fabulous.

Building on this workshop, similar training workshops are planned for the second and third years of the project, which will bring more KNLS staff and branch libraries into the project.