An overview of training and development needs

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Maintaining Leprosy Expertise

With the reducing prevalence of leprosy worldwide, some health workers in low endemic countries see less than one new case a year. They are losing the essential skills for the management of leprosy. In the context of a declining disease burden, fewer resources and, most importantly, declining clinical expertise in leprosy, capacity development assumes a greater importance.

As more leprosy control programmes are integrated into primary health care services, they need the necessary capacity to manage leprosy and its complications. National leprosy expertise will only be maintained if endemic countries and their partners invest in long-term human resource development. Adequate training of staff, an effective referral network and supportive supervision are essential for timely and effective care.

WHO has developed a Capacity Development Strategy designed to help countries to analyse their training needs and address the political will to maintain learning at a high level.

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