**BACCN Final Report**

This is the final report which provides an overview of a BACCN grant to support the support the newly formed National Network of Critical Care Nurses in Zambia to develop the first national guideline on safe staffing in critical care and to support their first national CPD event. Reports were submitted in May and July 2022. However, it has to be noted, that by completion of the project there were bonus outputs which exceeded all expectations and has established CCNAZ on a secure footing to move forward. They have been invited by the Lusaka College of Nursing the leading provider of critical care nursing to provide specialist input into the advanced diploma and BSc critical care nursing programmes, an example of sustainability beyond the lifetime of the grant.

This project built upon a successful and sustained health partnership in Zambia, which has focused on capacity building critical care nursing. Like many other countries, critical care nurses in Zambia have had to face the challenges of Covid-19 and at the start of the pandemic, training numbers were increasing; but numbers of CCNs remained insufficient. The pandemic highlighted this extreme shortage and the urgent need for a network to support these nurses, often the sole specialist practitioner in a hospital.

To give context to this final report, it has been noted that following a national needs assessment of critical care in 2016, the Ministry of Health, agreed to the formation of a national network for critical care nurses (Carter et al., 2016) and the was affiliated with the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses and links to the African Federation of Critical Care Nurses were made. Given the changes in critical care education and practice, it was proposed an Association was established and this was the first stage in this project. This project supported the transition of the critical care nurses’ network, enabling them to develop and register as a national association, with an executive committee and national constitution.

There first activity in their new format was the development of a safe staffing guideline. Given the few critical care specialists nationally, registered critical care nurses may work in isolation, therefore, to support them CCNAZ has developed guidance using internationally accepted guidelines (WFCCN Position Statements) and published evidence. The guideline was developed, peer reviewed and agreed, it is now in the process of being accepted by other organisations including the Ministry of Health.

CCNAZ were then asked to develop a lead a national critical care trauma workshop for critical care nurses completing specialist practice programmes. Details of this programme were shared in the January 2023 BACCN Newsletter. Since then they have developed and delivered initial Emergency Aid training for student nurses, as the final preparation for registration.

We hope that the successes achieved with support from this BACCN grant will provide the foundations for the CCNAZ to develop and represent nurses across the Country and build links with other countries and professional membership organisations. I would like to thank the BACCN for their generous support.

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Reference List:

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