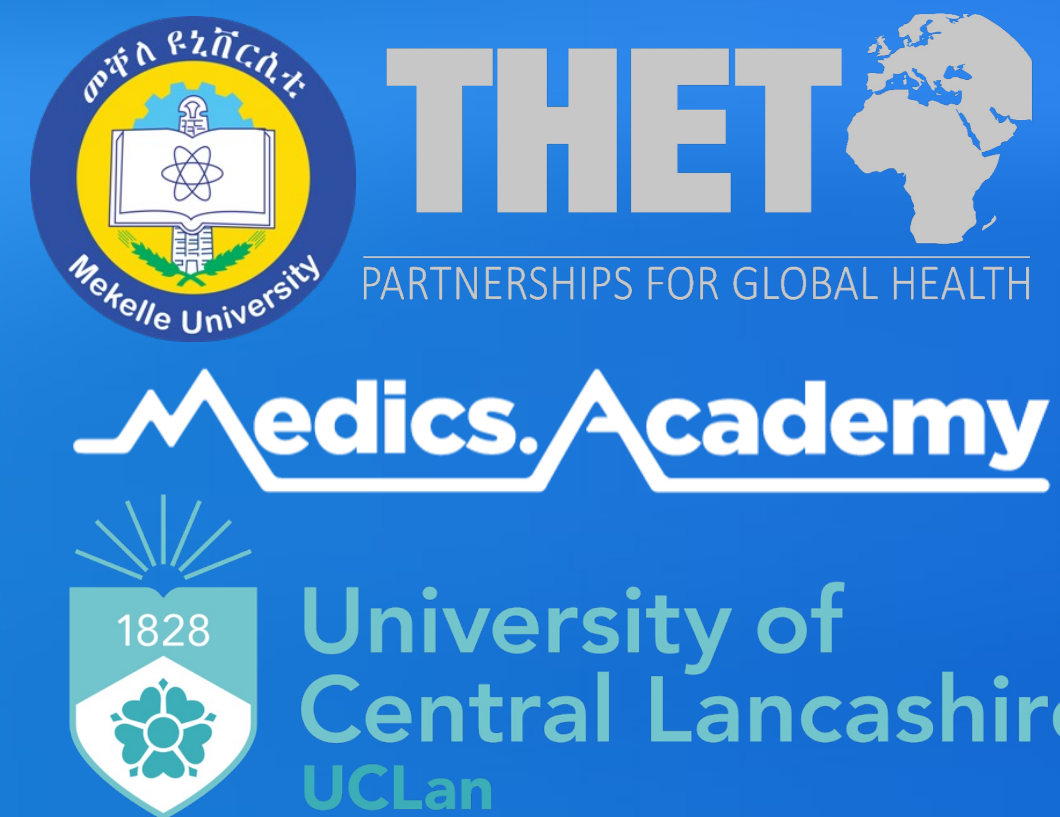


Empowering Female Health Workers to Minimize the Effects of Gender Based Violence

Kokob Gebru^{1*}, Anna Zatorska^{2*}, Simret Niguse Weldebirhan¹, Liya Mamo Woldu¹, Delina Gebreeyesus², Mebrahtom Haftu Tareke, Nafisa Badat², Rahel Kidanemariam¹, Sarah Malawana², Araya Abrha Medhanyie¹, Johann Malawana²

¹Mekelle University, College of Health Sciences, Tigray, Ethiopia | ²The Healthcare Leadership Academy Research Collaborative | kokobgebru@gmail.com



INTRODUCTION

- Mekelle University is situated in the heart of a recently ceased armed conflict in Tigray, Ethiopia, where women in the community including female health workers are at a higher risk of Gender Based Violence (GBV).
- GBV is one of the major public health problems in Ethiopia with reported 46.93% lifetime prevalence of violence against women¹.
- Globally, the United Nations are striving to eliminate violence against women through implementation of programmes that are both sustainable and effective².

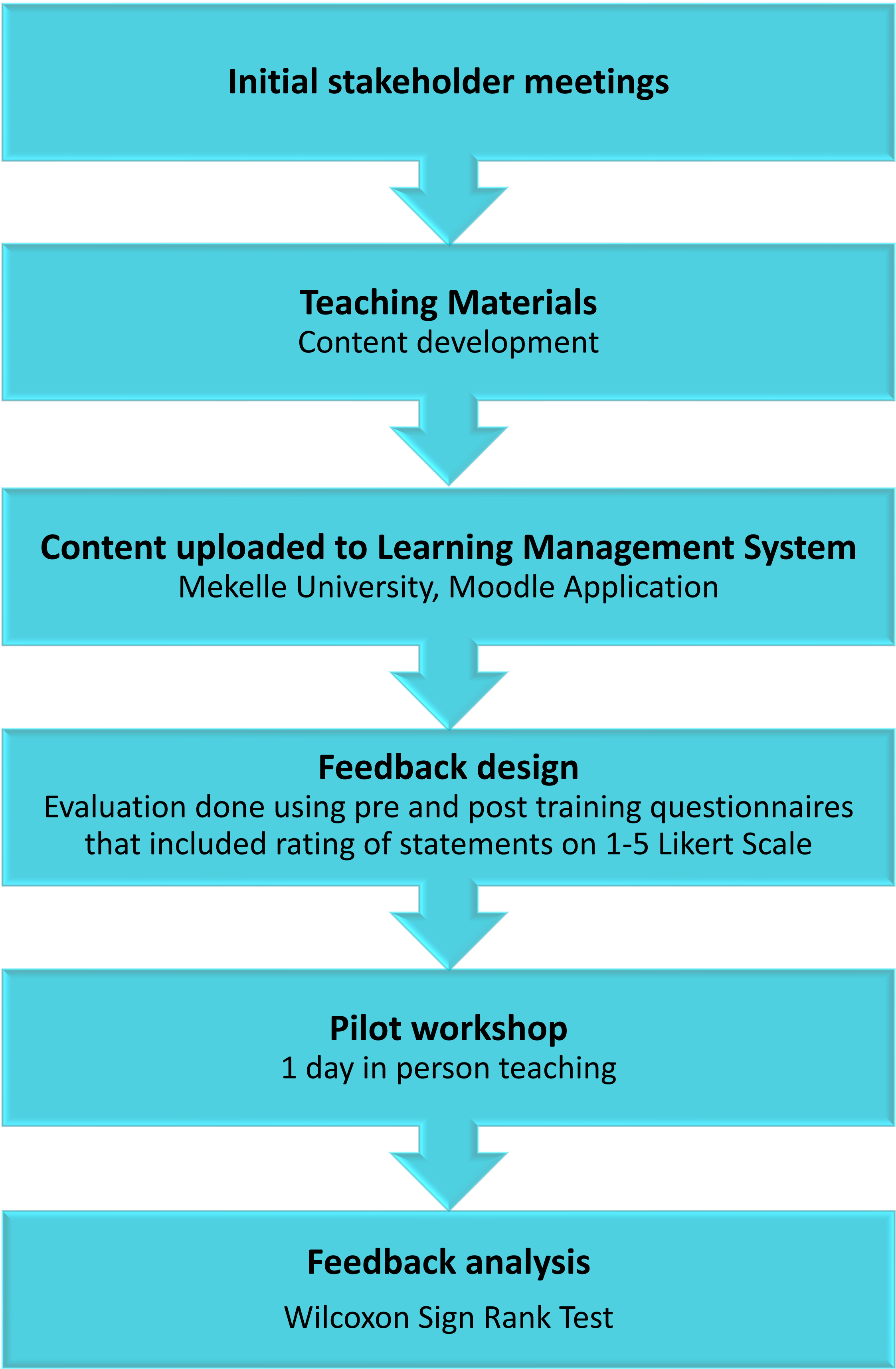
OBJECTIVE

- Our primary objective was the delivery of a bespoke training programme. This consisted of a pilot workshop and e-learning materials that aimed to improve knowledge and confidence of female health workers in addressing GBV within their workplace and communities.



Source: United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) AP

METHODS



ROLES	MEKELLE UNIVERSITY
	Contextualised Understanding Content
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE	MEDICS ACADEMY
Academic Support	Technical support and academic expertise

Training Programme Learning Objectives:

- To learn about different types of GBV towards women.
- To learn about root causes and contributing factors of GBV.
- To work through case studies and understand how to address GBV within the workplace and in the community.
- To identify how to support people who face GBV by:
 - Understanding the consequences of GBV.
 - Learning how to communicate with people affected by GBV in an adequate, sensitive manner.
- Signposting the availability of services within the community.

RESULTS

- 27 female health workers aged 25-42 years old attended a pilot workshop at Mekelle University in November 2022.
- Female healthcare workers were from nursing, health informatics, academic, medical, midwifery, nutrition and public health backgrounds.
- There were statistically significant improvements in self-perceived levels of knowledge and attitudes towards addressing GBV (p<0.001).

Feedback from participants:

“The training was interesting, interactive and participant centered.”

“Case based discussions made it relevant”

“Access to resources should be provided prior to in person workshops”

CONCLUSIONS

- Our findings evidence the successful application of the training programme.
- Future directions include applying our workshop in ‘train the trainer’ mode.
- Our work can also be applied to wider regions in and outside of Ethiopia.

REFERENCES QR CODE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was funded by the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET).