

# A call for a veterinary public health component to the Peoples Open Access Education Initiative: Peoples-uni

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## INTRODUCTION

- To help build Public Health capacity in resource-poor countries, Peoples-uni aims to offer high quality and low cost Internet based education. (Figure 1)
- Identification, utilisation and online facilitation of **open access resources** is required by volunteer faculty to facilitate this goal.

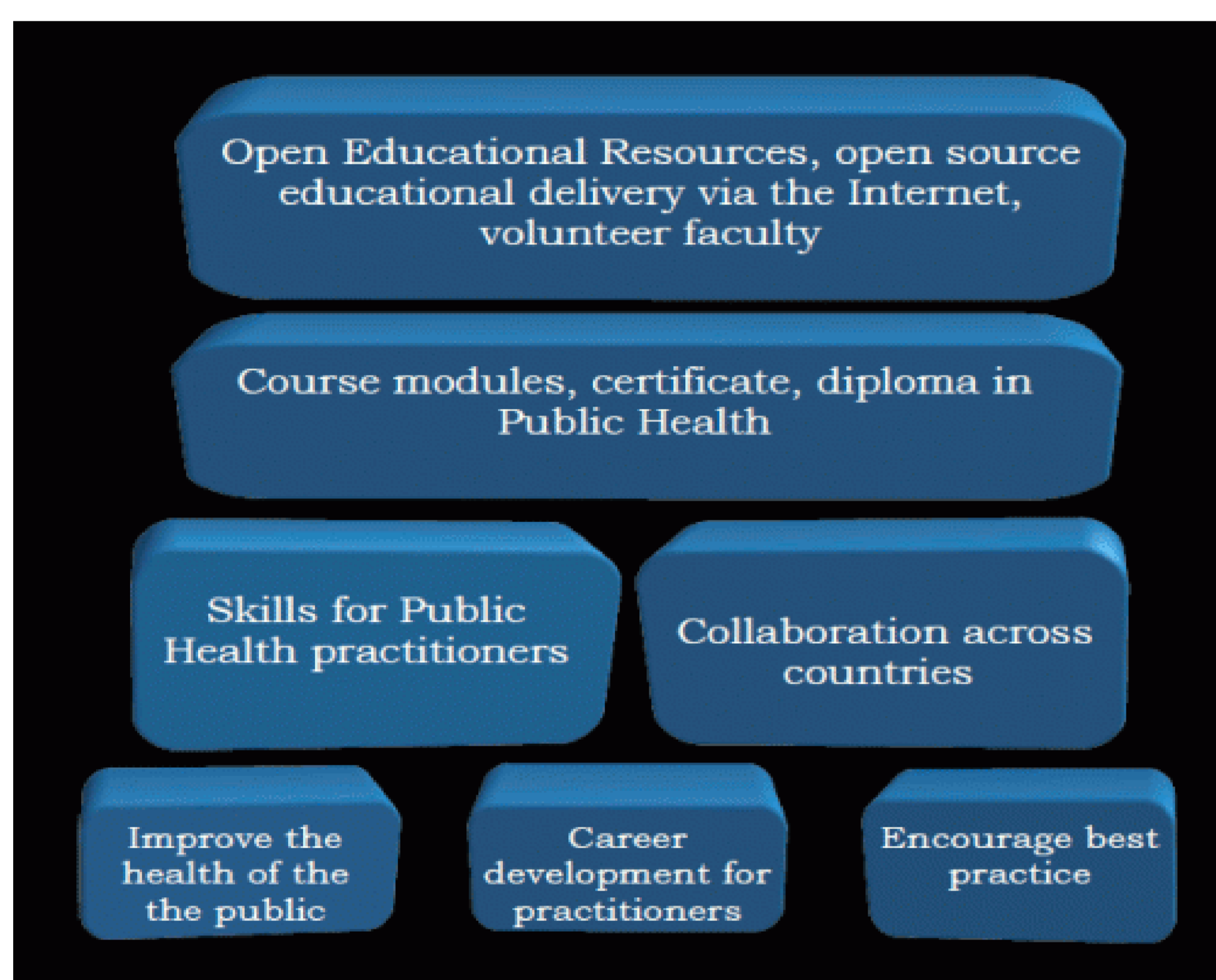


Figure 1. Aims and objectives of Peoples-uni

## METHODS

- A volunteer international faculty have come together.
- Education covers both the 'foundation sciences' of Public Health, and the major health problems faced in low- to middle-income countries and is targeted at meeting the competences required to tackle these issues.
- Awards at the Certificate and Diploma level are provided by the UK Royal Society for Public Health.

## PROGRESS TO DATE

- Following an encouraging pilot course module, 117 students from 23 countries have enrolled in the first set of 6 course modules (Figure 2), and expressions of interest for future enrolments are high.
- 29 of 33 respondents to early feedback would recommend the course to others, and would enrol in future modules.



## VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

- Zoonoses are important sources of disease, requiring integration of human and veterinary medicine, the 'one-medicine' approach.
- Addition of modules reflecting veterinary perspectives and approaches, will appeal to those concerned with human Public Health as well as offering capacity building for Veterinary Public Health.

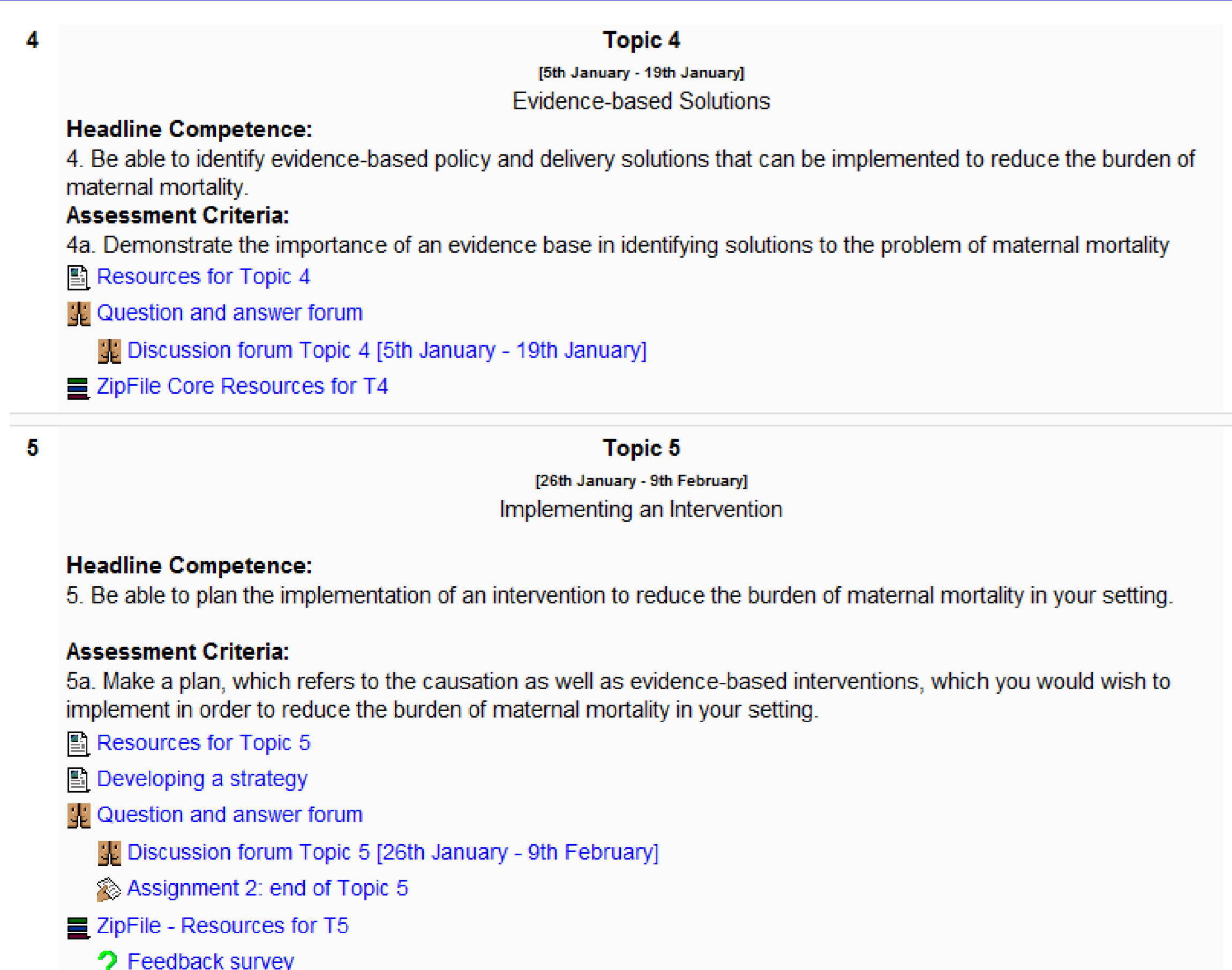


Figure 2. Screenshot of two of five topics in module on Maternal Mortality

## CONCLUSIONS

- We call for collaboration from organisations and individuals from veterinary Public Health.
- Volunteers participate in module development and online facilitation – this can involve as little as two hours a week for a two week period.
- In 'exchange', volunteers become part of a high quality collaborative international faculty helping to build Public Health capacity where it is most needed.
- Contact <http://peoples-uni.org> or [rfheller@peoples-uni.org](mailto:rfheller@peoples-uni.org)

## REFERENCES

Heller RF, Chongsuvivatwong V, Hailegeorgios S, et al. Capacity-building for public health: <http://peoples-uni.org>. *Bull World Health Organ.* 2007;85(12):930-4.

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