

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Building and Monitoring Behavior Change Skills for Multi-Sectoral Interventions to Improve Community Health

Nicole Weber, Senior WASH Advisor/Project Director PRO-WASH, Save the Children

Effective communication, facilitation, and negotiation skills are critical to support gains in community health. While the importance of building these and other skills is recognized, few organizations systemically monitor and report on their training activities, beyond process indicators. Given the investment in time and resources that capacity strengthening efforts require from participants, facilitators, and organizers, PRO-WASH and SCALE, USAID/BHA-funded capacity strengthening and learning activities developed a robust data collection plan to routinely collect data before, during and after trainings to use in adaptive management. We will share the monitoring methodology and key results from post-training monitoring data collected 3-6 months after each training session. We will present how findings informed our approach to capacity strengthening and provide recommendations for future monitoring. Links to all training and e-learning resources on the Make Me a Change Agent (MMCA) training for agriculture, WASH and livelihoods staff will be available for attendees to use. This manual was originally developed in 2015 by TOPS and the CORE Group SBC Working Group and later adapted by PRO-WASH and SCALE.

A Holistic Approach And Use Of Local Indigenous Tools During Communication Interventions Enhance Confidence Building Among Frontline Workers And Communities To Adopt Positive Behavior For COVID And Routine Immunization In Uttar Pradesh, India

Rina Dey, CORE Group Polio Practice (India)

The reliance on traditional mass media during the polio campaign did not offer much success. And the focus was only to change one short-term behavior. Huge resistance was encountered during door-to-door vaccination. The CORE group deployed volunteers from the same community reaching communities with a single message which contributed to low community participation in polio vaccination. Hence the project addressed their other immediate health requirements that were not only pertinent to their needs but also made a connection with disease eradication. The key Strategies were: Use of NO-cost indigenous communication tools such as, Sticks story Water jug, and glass story Turmeric, mud, and water analogy an empty and filled bottle The usage of five questions ensured question harvesting and two-way participation. All the above tools were instrumental during the COVID pandemic, these tools were instrumental in communicating the importance of handwashing, & COVID vaccination. Volunteers and health workers were confident in conducting interactive communication sessions. A high number of resistant families were converted for childhood and COVID vaccination in Uttar Pradesh, India.

Mid-upper Arm circumference (MUAC) Measurement Use for Children with Disabilities: A Systematic Review

Julia Hayes, Holt International

Anthropometric measurements, including mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC), are important for monitoring and evaluating children's nutritional status. Evidence is limited on optimal nutritional assessment for children with disabilities. This study describes MUAC use among children with disabilities. Data included children 6 months -18 years old with disabilities. Studies from 23 countries found inconsistent

MUAC measurement methods, references, methods and cut-offs. Sixteen (52%) reported MUAC as a mean \pm SD, 11 (35%) reported ranges or percentiles, 6 (19%) reported z-scores and 3 (10%) used other methods. Fourteen (45%) studies included both MUAC and weight-for-height (WFH) but non-standard reporting made it difficult to compare the prevalence of MUAC-based vs WFH-based malnutrition. Whilst its speed, simplicity, and ease of use affords MUAC great potential for assessing children with disabilities, more work is needed to understand how it performs at identifying high-risk children in comparison to other measures. Inclusivity of children with disabilities in data collection and health services is essential, but current research and recommendations leave this unaddressed.

Using Community-Based Implementation Frameworks and Strategies to Address Food Insecurity during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Scoping Review

Lea Sacca, Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

This scoping review aims to describe the main barriers to food security imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in low-income U.S. households, identify effective community-based implementation frameworks and strategies, and discuss the lessons learned from implementing community-based approaches during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most cited barriers were categorized into the Community/Society-Policy category of "Social determinants of health in communities." Out of the twelve included studies, only five (42%) adopted an implementation framework in their food-insecurity interventions. This study can guide the development and sustainability of food programming during emergencies with possible transfer of lessons learned to food programs in low-income populations.

Strengthened Community Health Capacities to Ensure Continuity of Health Services in Fragile Settings: An Integrated Approach in Burkina Faso

Augustin Zongo, Pathfinder International

This work that MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience is conducting with the MOH in Center-East, Center-West and South-West regions in Burkina Faso aims to provide concrete responses to challenges related to the security situation to ensure that vulnerable and hard-to-reach women and children continue to have access to FP/RH, MNCH, immunization and nutrition services and adapt resilient behaviors. Due to the ongoing security situation, these regions are home to programs and interventions supported by both development actors (like MOMENTUM) and humanitarian actors. While many of the humanitarian actors focus on direct service delivery, MOMENTUM complements that work by strengthening the health resilience of households, communities, and the overall health system by strengthening the capacity of community health workers to provide an integrated package of services adapted for fragile settings; supporting national NGOs to provide FP/RH services at the community level; micro-planning with the MOH to revise national immunization strategies focusing on continuity of services in insecure regions; and supporting the development of standard operating procedures for the national emergency operation center. MOMENTUM also plays a coordinating role among development and humanitarian actors, bringing them together for simulation exercises to plan and prepare for future shocks and stresses. These examples of layering and coordinating activities among humanitarian and development actors, and public-private partnerships provide evidence for effective health programming in the humanitarian-development nexus at the community level.

A Sustainable Strategy for Renumerating CHWs in Cameroon.

Kenneth Muko, Medicines for Humanity

The paper provides insights on how an integrated mechanism fosters community engagement in health-related programs and leads to improved performance and commitment to a job, long after funding for CHW remuneration is depleted. Additionally, we provide information on an entrepreneurship approach which is a one-time expenditure that significantly impacts the root and proximal causes of health issues. This integrated approach addresses several of the strategic development goals.

Understanding the Individual and Social Factors Associated with IPTp Uptake Among Women in Northwest Nigeria Using Marginal Effects Modelling

James Welty, Doctoral Student, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

This poster will advance the theme of the conference by contributing important technical insight into maternal and newborn health as well as Social and Behavior Change Communication. Understanding the ideations of pregnant women will aide SBCC program implementers to develop and implement more targeted programming that addresses the demand of IPTp uptake.

Increasing Contraceptive Uptake Amongst Youth by Engaging Faith Leaders within Conservative Communities in Malawi

Racquel Enad, World Relief

Faith leaders play crucial roles in the success of community-based work, and mobilizing them can contribute to increased demand for FP services. Through SCOPE's faith-leader curriculum and workshops, faith leaders become equipped with FP/RH technical information and more confident to communicate these sensitive topics with their faith communities, especially among youth. The knowledge that faith leaders' share with their faith communities can contribute to higher demand for FP information and services, such as higher uptake of voluntary family planning. Equipping and partnering with faith leaders in FP/RH is especially important in these rural, conservative communities, where they are key-influencers in health-decision making, and reach households and communities where CHWs may not. The poster, in combination with World Relief's decades of experience in faith engagement and implementing in hardest-to-reach, "last-mile" communities, can foster further learning and knowledge-sharing among Core Group members and global health practitioners on best practices for implementing community-based, FP/RH projects in rural, conservative communities such as those in Lilongwe and Machinga, Malawi.

Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Rights through Digital Innovations

Rajni Wadhwa, Plan International (India Chapter)

Several initiatives to improve accessibility and availability of SRHR services have been undertaken by government in India, however its implementation leaves much scope for action. Vulnerable and underserved women are disproportionately affected by unintended pregnancies leading to maternal death, sexually transmitted infections and gender-based violence. The rise of digitization offers opportunities for Health and Empowerment even in rural areas. An innovative digital platform was developed to cater to demand and supply of family planning services and commodities. In first year of roll out of Digital App,

more than 30,000 eligible couples, adolescents and women of reproductive age registered on the App. 20,000 demands for various contraceptives were raised and met through the App. The geotagging facility helped frontline workers to make home-based service delivery easier. Young women and adolescents gained from the standard knowledge content. Analytical reports and dashboards aided program management, monitoring and quality assurance. Technology plays an essential role in achieving gender equality, increasing access to reliable information and advice on issues related to SRHR and can be scaled up quickly and widely.

Overcoming Barriers To Research And Evaluation In Humanitarian Settings During Pandemics ,A Case Study From Research In South Sudan And Eastern Democratic Republic Of The Congo

Jennifer Maier, MEAL Advisor, International Medical Corps

The proposed session cuts across multiple themes of the GHPC conference, including two technical working group areas (Nutrition and M&E) and 'Pandemic Response and Preparedness'. The continuity of research and evaluation activities in humanitarian settings is critical during the current pandemic and future pandemics. Our study in South Sudan and Eastern DRC generated valuable learning on operational challenges, and the study's recommendations can aid future planning and implementation of community health and nutrition research. Learning from the case study also suggests the importance of digital technologies and national partnerships for successful health research in pandemics, which will advance discussions on 'digital innovations' and 'localization and inclusion' themes.

Equipping Caregivers To Track And Share Their Child's Progress From Home, Localizing Nutrition Interventions, Through The Pandemic And Beyond.

Mary Mukomba, Children International

The Poster demonstrates the evidence in support of community-based management of acute malnutrition as the standard of care for treatment of severe acute malnutrition for children under five. The research aims to determine the appropriateness, acceptability, and feasibility of leveraging MUAC-z based nutritional assessment to support caregivers of malnourished children during the pandemic to monitor their children's progress and control malnutrition from the home. The primary variable being evaluated related to the type of support provided (i.e. in-home, phone calls, SMS text messaging) to effectively move from centralized community-based service provision to more localized approaches within the home.

Community Giant Scoreboard: An Innovative Approach for the Monitoring of Maternal and Child Health Indicators at Community Level

Elisabeth Boena, Catholic Relief Services
N. Olivier Zombre, Catholic Relief Services

The Scoreboard approach made it possible to involve both men and women in the management of people's health in their own community. The data from the scoreboards implemented in the 10 villages speaks for itself: the health and nutrition indicators within the 10 villages have changed significantly. The village of SANTANA, in Burkina Faso, was struggling for women to start antenatal consultation; from the first quarter, the indicators turn green from the first update of "the health wall, name given by the villagers to the Scoreboard. Early ANC increased from 30% to 90%, and the malnutrition rate decreased from 10% to 0%. This approach demonstrates the communities' ability to take charge of their health issues with a minimum

of support. The approach can also be replicated in communities with major health and nutritional challenges. This case study can serve as a reference for the panel to advocate for its replication in communities with strong maternal and child health challenges

Building the Ship While Sailing: How World Relief's SCOPE HIV Project Strengthened Data Visualization and Use in a Two-Year Project in Malawi

Emily Chambers Sharpe, World Relief
Willy Kamera, World Relief, Malawi

Technical (M&E) and Digital Innovations This work advances conference themes in the technical area of Monitoring and Evaluation as well as Digital Innovations. When global health programs implement programs in low-resource settings with very limited timeframes, it is often necessary to build a strong M&E system while rolling out program activities. This abstract aims to describe a process of adaptation and innovation within a well-designed M&E framework. This is a case study in how WR used a suite of low-resource tools, then transitioned and improved upon them as the program was rolled out. The presentation will showcase each of the intermediary steps taken to build capacity and utilize appropriate tools for capacity at the time. Products mentioned will be shared with conference attendees and used to spark dialogue with other practitioners. This is a practice and implementation focused presentation that includes a presenter who worked both to meet donor requirements and to provide more useful data to frontline implementers. This is also a case study that explores complexity and adaptation in monitoring and evaluating programs, and the ways that COVID-19 restrictions influenced the M&E system in the WR SCOPE HIV program.

Mental Health Needs Of Healthcare Workers Responding To The COVID-19 Pandemic: A Global Qualitative Needs Assessment

Rawan Hamadeh, Project HOPE

Mental health was a neglected area especially in low to middle income countries, and the COVID-19 pandemic came to increase the gap between the need and the availability of evidence based high quality mental health services. Project HOPE prioritizes the wellbeing of healthcare workers who are the building block of any healthcare system. In efforts to address the heavy burden COVID-19 had on healthcare workers across the world, Project HOPE conducted a qualitative needs assessment prior to the implementation of the Mental Health & Resilience Training across 31 countries. The needs assessment aimed to identify the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the mental health of frontline healthcare workers globally. The needs assessment highlighted the similarities of the personal, institutional, and structural needs of healthcare worker during the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe. It is the responsibility of key health stakeholders everywhere to prioritize the mental health of healthcare workers and to address these challenges for the better of our health systems and communities.

COVID-19 Vaccination among Pregnant and Lactating Women: How CORE Group Polio Project Turned the Tide in high-risk areas of selected districts of Uttar Pradesh, India

Yatender Singh, Project Concern International/India

This poster highlight the challenges associated with promoting COVID-19 vaccination among pregnant and lactating women. Also, It describes community connections and communication strategies of the CORE

Group Polio Project (CGPP) used to allay the fear and misconceptions surrounding the vaccine and accelerate the vaccination in traditionally polio-endemic high-risk areas in Uttar Pradesh in India.

Adapting Monitoring And Evaluation (M&E) In The Context Of The COVID-19 Pandemic: Strategies To Minimize Infection Risk While Maintaining Quality

Jennifer Maier, MEAL Advisor, International Medical Corps

The session will directly contribute to sharing best practices in Monitoring and Evaluation, which is well aligned with the objectives of the technical M+E CORE GROUP's Working Group. The challenges that Monitoring and Evaluation face during the COVID-19 pandemic are complex and many, as traditional means of collecting data, disseminating results, and consulting with affected communities have often relied on in-person activities. Adapting these activities to the landscape of the ongoing pandemic is essential if responders are to ensure that they maintain the principle of Do No Harm, among others. The proposed session will provide an opportunity to discuss the larger operational framework for COVID-19 and MEAL developed by IMC, with illustrative examples of these adaptations that include the Central African Republic and Pakistan case studies above as well as other organizational examples. These strategies can be used in other monitoring and evaluation activities across different contexts. Highlighting some of the lessons learned, challenges, and recommendations from the case studies and from the larger framework can stimulate the discussion of innovative ideas for maintaining core MEAL activities in the context of future infectious disease outbreaks and fulfilling our responsibilities to communities we serve.

Grounding Evaluation Design in the Socio-Ecological Model of Health: A Logic Framework for the Assessment of a National Routine Immunization Communication Initiative in Kyrgyzstan

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Childhood routine immunization is a highly effective intervention for the prevention of infectious diseases. Despite an overall RI rate of 96% in Kyrgyzstan, a KAP study by UNICEF noted growing vaccine refusal among parents/primary caregivers, and clusters of lower immunization coverage. As a result, UNICEF spearhead a national Initiative to increase the RI rates in Kyrgyzstan. This Initiative includes strengthening interpersonal communication skills of local healthcare workers, improving the quality and accuracy of media coverage, as well as fostering community engagement to give voice to local champions and engage hesitant parents and vaccine refusers. UNICEF also partnered with a research team for the evaluation design. Grounded in the socio-ecological model (SEM) of health, the framework recognizes the interconnection of behavioral, social and policy change to document results among key groups, and ultimately the Initiative's impact on immunization rates. This system-thinking approach to intervention/communication design and multi-level evaluation is particularly important in the COVID-19 era. This presentation discusses the evaluation framework, including implications for child health, epidemics, and other global health, communication, and international development interventions.

Assessing The Effect Of Utilizing Elearning To Improve And Retain Community Health Worker's Knowledge On The Community Based Maternal And Neonatal Health

Jacqueline Umunyana, IntraHealth International

In Rwanda, Community health worker's (CHWs) play a vital role in the provision of community-based health services including primary care to pregnant women and newborns. The CHWs, however still face challenges related to capacity building. A pilot study was conducted to assess the effect of utilizing eLearning to improve and retain CHWs' knowledge on community based maternal and neonatal health (CBMNH) services. Eligible CHWs had completed basic CBMNH training but had not received refresher training. A total of 36 CHWs were enrolled in CBMNH course through eLearning approach using locally made smartphones. Paired t-test was used to measure the mean difference in results. The study showed an association between age category and performance of CHWs in pretest ($p=0.01$) and posttest ($p=0.04$) and years of experience and performance score at pretest ($p=0.02$). The availability of electricity at home did not have an impact on performance score of CHWs in all evaluation. Per the study results, training of CHWs through eLearning is feasible and could be a strategy to improve and retain their knowledge.

The Effect Of Social And Behavior Change Interventions On Uptake Of Maternal And Newborn Health Services In Rwanda - A Cross Sectional Study

NDIBAZA Amedee Fidele, Intrahealth International Rwanda / USAID Ingobyi

Our presentation shows how social and behaviour change messaging can influence uptake of maternal and new-born health services. We described which factors influence the uptake of health messages as well as the perceived relevance and acceptability of such messages among Rwandans. Participants / readers will gain insights from our study that they can use to tailor behaviour change messaging in their contexts to improve service delivery at the community level.

Working With Men As Vaccine Champions: Lessons From Polio To Increase COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage In Nigeria

Oro-ghene Adia, Catholic Relief Services

CORE Group Partners Project a Polio implementing Partner has supported the GoN in Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities to raise awareness on vaccination across Igabi Local Government Area (LGA) of Kaduna state. With the low coverage of COVID-19 vaccination in Igabi LGA, the project conducted a short-term intervention to increase COVID-19 vaccination by leveraging its Polio activities. The intervention activities include engaging 20 Male adults called Male Peer Educators (MPES). MPES are fully vaccinated men who organize weekly peer sessions with adult men to sensitize them on COVID-19, encourage the uptake of preventive behaviour, and refer them to vaccination sites upon acceptance. The MPES demonstrate strength in rising above the challenges of insecurity to educate their peers on the benefits of vaccination. CGPP implemented the intervention through Catholic Relief Services in collaboration with the Kaduna State Primary Health Care Development Agency and the Igabi LGA Health team.