



Wilton Park

Programme

Unlocking the community health workforce potential, post-Ebola: what models and strategies work?

Wednesday 10 – Friday 12 February 2016 | WP1447

This Wilton Park dialogue seeks to develop clear ways forward for the Ebola-affected countries in West Africa in building a skilled cadre of Community Health Workers (CHWs) as part of their development of community based primary health care.

Held in the discreet Wilton Park setting, conducive to in-depth, collaborative and frank conversation, this dialogue will convene health policy-makers, practitioners, NGOs, private sector and donor communities for a dynamic discussion about community health workforce development in West Africa post-Ebola.

Context

There is an emerging consensus among global health leaders that stronger health systems, with particular emphasis on community based primary health care, will be critical to ensure adequate preparedness against future epidemics, to continue the fight against the top killers of children and women and to build capacity to handle the growing burden of chronic, non-communicable diseases.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed at the United Nations General Assembly aim to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births, and end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under five by 2030. The SDGs emphasise the need for a substantial increase in the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce, especially in least developed countries.

Recent literature also highlights the vital role that CHWs can play in promoting healthy behaviours, delivering routine care and responding to health crises. Evidence suggests that where CHWs are effectively trained and deployed, there is a reduction in maternal and child

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mortality, a reduction in the spread of HIV, TB, and malaria, and better management of chronic diseases. Effective training for CHWs has the potential to extend the reach of quality health care, in particular to poor and marginalized populations.

For countries in West Africa recovering from Ebola developing strategies for their community based primary health care has become more critical than ever. What are the appropriate strategies which they can adopt to build up a strong community health workforce? What lessons from other countries might be applicable in West Africa in setting up, training and incentivising a strong cadre of CHWs?

Objectives

The meeting seeks to:

- Develop clear ways forward for the Ebola-affected countries in developing a strong community health workforce.
- Through discussion and the sharing of lessons learned from elsewhere, provide insights and guidance to West African countries to support their development of strategies and policies.
- Align the needs of the Ebola-affected countries with the efforts of the global community working to develop or support CHW programmes.

In partnership with mPowering; with support from Gates Foundation, Vitol Foundation, Global Development Lab, USAID, Bureau for Global Health, USAID and Jhpiego

Sponsorship of individual participants: BBC Media Action, IntraHealth International, Qualcomm, Vital Wave, World Health Organisation and World Vision

Wednesday 10 February

1500-1600

Participants arrive and refreshments available

1600

Welcome and introduction

Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park

Lesley-Anne Long

Global Director, mPowering Frontline Health Workers, Washington DC, United States of America

1615-1730

1. What are the key trends and drivers affecting community healthcare workforce development?

A look at the current situation of community health workforce development. What is meant by 'community health'? Why is the current focus on CHWs so important? What are the national and global approaches to community healthcare workforce development? How are programmes being scaled up to meet the Sustainable Development Goal of Universal Health Coverage?

In which countries do CHWs play the largest role? What are the main drivers of this? What services do CHWs typically provide? How have trends changed? How have increasingly pluralistic healthcare services impacted community healthcare programmes?

Chair: Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park

A Sierra Leonean perspective

Foday Sawi Lahai

Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Setting a global framework

Katie Taylor

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health; Deputy Child and Maternal Survival Coordinator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington DC, United States of America

1730-1800

Tea/coffee

1800-1900

2. Country case studies: components of a successful community health worker programme

An examination of some key case studies from countries that are already developing well-trained and well supported CHW cadres as integral parts of the national health system. What have been the lessons learnt in building a community health workforce? What have been the challenges and how were they best overcome? What have been the most appropriate training approaches, incentives and support mechanisms for building a strong workforce? What can countries recovering from Ebola learn from other countries that have successfully developed and scaled up CHW programmes?

Victor Bampoe

Deputy Minister of Health, Ministry of Health, Accra, Ghana

Kampila Humphreys Nsona

Programme Manager, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) Unit, Ministry of Health, Lilongwe, Malawi

Amajit Mukherjee

Project Director, Shaping Demand and Practices project, BBC Media Action, New Delhi, India

1900

Reception followed by dinner hosted by

Richard Burge

Chief Executive Officer, Wilton Park

Thursday 11 February

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-1015

3. Community health ecosystem: building a supportive environment for CHWs

What needs to be in place for the success of a community health worker programme? What policies are needed? What do communities need to know to seek care from CHWs? Which community groups need to be involved, and how? How can the rest of the health system interact with and support CHWs? What role do policy, advocacy, and research play on a global scale?

Chair: Magnus Conteh

Director, Global Health Programmes, Strategic Partnerships and Innovation, World Vision Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

Kwesi Asabir

Deputy Director, Human Resource for Health Development, Ministry of Health, Accra, Ghana

Richard Gakuba

Managing Director, Health Systems Innovations Limited, African Network for Digital Health, Kigali, Rwanda

1015-1045

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1045-1115

4. Community healthcare worker training - setting the standard I

Introduction to plenary

What are the current practices for in-service and continuing training of community healthcare workers? What are the barriers to providing community health workers with the tools and information they need? What is the potential for sharing, re-using and adapting common training resources?

Chair: Lesley-Anne Long

Global Director, mPowering Frontline Health Workers, Washington DC, United States of America

Ari Johnson

Chief Executive Officer, Muso; Assistant Professor, University of San Francisco, United States of America

1115-1230

5. Community healthcare worker training - setting the standard II

Discussion in working groups – each group to focus on 3 questions:

- What are the current practices for in-service and continuing training of community healthcare workers?
- What are the barriers to providing community health workers with the tools and information they need?
- What is the potential for sharing, re-using and adapting common training resources?

Facilitators to include:

Josh Nesbit

Chief Executive Officer, Medic Mobile, San Francisco, United States of America

Jack Castle

Strategic Partnerships Manager, Living Goods, London, United Kingdom

Charles Mybalyohere

President, Busoga Yaiffe; Postdoctoral Researcher, The Open University Business School, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom

Okey Okuzu and

Founder; Chief Executive Officer, InStrat Global Health Solutions, Montclair, United States of America

Mamadou Rafi Diallo

Director, Health Promotion, Ministry of Health, Conakry, Guinea

1230-1300

6. Community healthcare worker training - setting the standard III

Feedback from working groups

Chair: Lesley-Anne Long

Global Director, mPowering Frontline Health Workers, Washington DC, United States of America

1300-1430

Lunch

1415-1500

Show casing practical materials in Library (optional)

1500-1630

7. Developing community healthcare workforces: the role of ICT and

mobile technology

How can advances in technology support community healthcare? What role can ICT and mobile technology play in both supporting healthcare delivery and in facilitating training for healthcare workers? What types and uses of technology are best suited to the areas where CHWs work?

Chair: Merrick Schaefer

Lead, Development Informatics, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington DC, United States of America

Supo Oyedepo

Country Director, ICT for Saving One Million Lives in Nigeria (ICT4SOML), Abuja, Nigeria

Ralph Ankri

Programme Manager, Orange Labs, Paris, France

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1815

8. Working to develop the community health workforce I

Discussion in 4 working groups

Group 1 and 2: What national strategies and structures work best? How to ensure strong leadership and appropriate governance for CHW development?

Facilitators:

Tana Wuliji

Technical Officer, World Health Organisation (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland

Mohammed Abdus Salam

Liberia Country Representative, BRAC, Monrovia, Liberia

Group 3 and 4: What specific steps are needed for (re)building the Community health workforce in countries affected by Ebola?

Facilitators:

Dykki Settle

Director, Digital Health Solutions, PATH, Seattle, United States of America

Na'im Merchant

Director, Public Partnerships and Policy, Last Mile Health, Boston, United States of America

1815-1845

9. Working to develop the community health workforce II

Feedback and discussion

1900

Reception followed by Conference dinner

Friday 12 February

0800-0845

Breakfast and checkout

0900-0945

10. Developing strategies for a strong community workforce

Reflecting upon yesterday's discussion groups, what are the key strategies at both national and international level for developing strong community workforces? How can packages of essential health interventions at community level be strengthened? What are the best means to finance and support solutions at scale? How can external partners support governments in building or rebuilding their community health workforce?

Chair: Pape Gaye

President and Chief Executive Officer, IntraHealth International, Chapel Hill, United States of America

0945-1145

11. Setting down plans and scaling up solutions

Discussion in working groups

Groups will discuss different aspects which participants want to focus on, to be determined by the participants. Topics could include:

- What practical measures need to be taken to turn frameworks and recommendations from the conceptual to the concrete? What are the action points for scaling up and institutionalising workable solutions for CHWs?
- What is the role of partner governments, the private sector and NGOs in supporting CHW development?
- What can be done to increase coordination of international activities supporting CHW development?

(1030-1100)

Tea/coffee available during discussion groups

1145

Completion of e-Questionnaire including logging individual actions.

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/wp1447/> (English version)

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/wp1447french/> (French version)

1200-1300

12. Agenda for action: next steps

Feedback from the discussion groups in session 11, conclusions and next steps.

Chair: Pape Gaye

President and Chief Executive Officer, IntraHealth International, Chapel Hill, United States of America

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change. Discussion will be in English with simultaneous French interpretation provided.

This is an invitation only meeting.

Enquiries about the programme to: Robin Hart, Director of Programmes, Wilton Park
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