USAID's Support to Global Health Research and Development Webinar Series:
Health Systems and Maternal and Child Health

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SAVING LIVES THROUGH REAL-WORLD RESEARCH

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Presentation Overview

• What is the Health Research Program?
• Applying co-design approaches to accelerate research to use process
• Current and emerging priorities:
  ▪ Newborn and young infant health
  ▪ Illness recognition and care-seeking
  ▪ Urban health
Health Research Program Mission

The Health Research Program supports and promotes implementation research as a means of accelerating the research-to-use process and facilitating the introduction, uptake and scale-up of new or adapted health interventions.
The Promise of Implementation Research

Statement on Advancing Implementation Research and Delivery Science

- Informs policy-makers, managers, the public, researchers, funders and other users on practical matters
- Builds capacity, ownership and accountability
- Strengthens problem-solving and learning
- Contributes to improved coverage, quality, efficiency and effectiveness of health interventions

September 2014, Third Global Symposium on Health Systems Research
“Many interventions found to be effective in health service research studies fail to translate into meaningful patient care outcomes across multiple contexts. In fact, some estimates indicate that two-thirds of organizations' efforts to implement change fail.”

Damschroder LJ et al. *Implement Sci* 2009; 4:50
Advancing Sustainable Solutions Through Co-design
Priority: Improved Management of Newborn Sepsis

Problem:

- Possible serious bacterial infections (PSBI), or sepsis, – a known killer of newborns – accounts for 23% of newborn deaths in LMICs
- Hospitalization may not be possible for 80-90% of newborns with PSBI

Reasons:

- Hospital not available/accessible
- Family cannot accept hospitalization
Timeline for Improved Management of Newborn and Young Infant Sepsis

2007
Launch
HRP and partners launch review of evidence on home-based therapies

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Clinical trials
A series of coordinated clinical trials were conducted in Africa (DR Congo, Kenya, Nigeria) and Asia (Pakistan, Bangladesh)

2013
Result Dissemination
WHO updated guidelines and operational manual

2016
Implementation
Kenya - PSBI BAA

Present
Ponya Mtoto Project: Scaling up PSBI Guidelines in Kenya

**Aim:** To reduce deaths of young infants from PSBI with revised national IMCI guidelines

**Regional focus:** Bungoma, Turkana, Kilifi, Mombasa - mix of rural and urban Kenyan regions with newborn mortality rates higher than national average

Activities focused on advancing implementation science and scale up of PSBI management:

- Engage county/national stakeholders and promote continuous communication
- Utilize existing structures to share research findings and implement activities
- Priority setting led by county teams with participation from local families, community, and health workers to identify contextual factors, potential roadblocks, and champions/opportunities
- Joint coordination and process documentation
Priority: Improved and timely care-seeking for MCH services

Patterns of Care-Seeking in Ethiopia

Maternal cases

Newborn cases

Source: Presentation by TRAction, Summary of Preliminary Findings, 18 November 2015
Timeline for Illness Recognition and Care-Seeking

2014
Launch
Systematic documentation of community-oriented approaches to improve recognition of and appropriate care seeking for newborn and maternal complications

2016
Evidence generation
Case study methodology results disseminated. Research gaps identified to accelerate improvements

2017
JHPN publications
BAA Addendum Released
MCH care-seeking and referrals

2018
Co-design and anticipated awards
Ongoing Process

Evidence generation
Case study methodology results disseminated. Research gaps identified to accelerate improvements

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Emerging Priority: Urban Health

In 2014 - 54% of the population was living in urban areas.

By 2050 - More than 66% of the population will live in urban areas.

SAVING LIVES THROUGH REAL-WORLD RESEARCH

The Health Research Program supports real-world research and translates findings into effective health interventions that can be adapted globally.
Office of Health Systems
Health Systems Research Defined
What is it and why do we measure it?

• Any method of study analyzing the impact of health policies and practices have on system performance and the impact system performance has on health outcomes.
OHS Research Goal 1: Research to measure progress and trace health impacts of health systems strengthening interventions
Pharmaceutical Systems Strengthening (PSS): What gets defined gets measured

- **PSS**: Identifying and implementing strategies and action to achieve coordinated and sustainable improvements in critical components of a pharmaceutical system to make it more responsive and resilient and to enhance its performance for achieving better health outcomes

- **PSS Insight Tool**: An online data management tool to measure PSS and performance across countries over time and enable countries to identify priority areas for investment

- Piloted 182 indicators in Namibia and Bangladesh

SIAPS PSS Framework

PSS Insight Tool
Applied: Kenya

Aim: Measure the economic cost of non-adherence to TB medicines due to loss of follow-up and stock outs

Results:
• Estimated 7,000 lives saved
• Prevented the development of 1,000+ drug-resistant TB
• Prevented more than 400 new infections

Economic benefits: $113M saved
OHS Goal 2: Research to identify effective interventions that integrate two or more HSS functions
Impact of health worker engagement on Service Delivery in Tanzania

- Aim: Identify factors that influence health worker engagement and its impact on service delivery
  - Four factors of engagement: job satisfaction, accountability, delivering quality care and being a team player

- Results: All four characteristics of engagement were associated with improved HIV care and outcomes

Improving CHW performance and productivity in Swaziland and Uganda

- Aim: Identify factors that increase CHW productivity and performance
  - Key factors for performance included increased salaries, confidentiality, training and access to supplies

- Results: No covariates were identified as significantly associated with both productivity and performance
Q&A

Please submit your questions in the chat box on the screen to the right.

Any questions not addressed during the session can be submitted to info@ghpod.com and will be answered by email.