EUROPEAN HEALTH FORUM GASTEIN 2015
Securing health in Europe. Balancing priorities, sharing responsibilities

Creating a better future for health in Europe

SAVE THE DATE - EHFG 2016 - 28-30 September 2016
International collaboration in research, policy and public health practice for improved community access to health

Health systems strengthening via research interventions and implementation

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Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland
Created 1974

- To develop new and improved tools for tropical disease control
- To strengthen the research capability of disease endemic countries (DECs)

**Strategic focus**

- Implementation and operational research: optimizing the translation of innovation to health impact in disease endemic countries
• **International collaboration in research and public health policy and practice**
  • Issues
  • Mechanisms
  • Challenges

• **Example**

ISSUE 1: RESEARCH FOR A SPECIFIC PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEMS CHALLENGE

• Issues
  ➢ Strengthening health systems using research
  ➢ Targeting fever management in children – severe malaria
    • children at risk
    • children with symptoms (e.g., fever) not readily distinguishable from malaria (e.g., pneumonia)

• Rationale
  • Reliance on facility-based interventions alone may be too late and fail to reduce child mortality
  • Early complementary case management in the community can achieve mortality reduction

• Relevance of research
  • Evidence needed to support community-based health system interventions
Objective

- To develop evidence-based strategies for implementing community-based interventions in resource-poor settings

Health interventions and tools for marginalized communities through the engagement and empowerment of communities within the health system
Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property

Element 2: Promoting research and development

(2.1) supporting governments to develop or improve national health research programmes and establish, where appropriate, strategic research networks to facilitate better coordination of stakeholders in this area

Element 6: Improving delivery and access

(6.1) encouraging increased investment in health delivery infrastructure and financing of health products in order to strengthen the health system
MECHANISMS OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

• Competitive grant making
• Scientific quality assurance
• Multi-country, multi-site research
  • Implementation research
  • Health Systems and Policy Research
  • Health economics research
  • Cluster Randomized Trials
• Capacity strengthening both in research and in public health practice
• Multi-disciplinary research teams in academic and public sector institutions, including in Ministries of Health
• Research to Policy and Practice uptake meetings and conferences
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target countries</th>
<th>Research institution</th>
<th>Title of research study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>University of Malawi, College of Medicine</td>
<td>Community-based treatment of febrile illness of under five children by community health workers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>College of Medicine, University of Ibadan</td>
<td>Evaluation of a package for diagnosis of malaria of various degrees of severity in rural Southwest Nigeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Groupe de Recherche Action en Sante (GRAS)</td>
<td>Feasibility and acceptability of an integrated community-based diagnosis and treatment strategy of malaria at different degrees of severity in under 5 year old children living in a rural health district of Banfora, Burkina Faso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Ministry of Health, Dr Jesca Nsungwa-Sabiiti</td>
<td>Evaluating the feasibility and cost effectiveness of community treatment of malaria of different severity in Uganda</td>
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CHALLENGE 1: TESTING, PACKAGING AND DELIVERING INTERVENTIONS

Diseases
- malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea

Tools
- RDTs, RRtimers, ACTs, Rectal Artesunate, ORS, Zinc

Implementers
- Community Health Workers
- Different types
- Training, incentivizing, retention
CHALLENGE 2: EMPOWERING THE HEALTH SYSTEM IN COMMUNITY-BASED DELIVERY

How To Use a Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT)

A guide for training at a village and clinic level

Pre-referral rectal artesunate treatment of childhood malaria in the community

Training Manual for community health workers to assess danger signs, provide emergency pre-referral treatment and refer treated children to a health facility.
CHALLENGE 3: PRODUCING HIGH QUALITY EVIDENCE

- Peer-reviewed journals – special issues
- Systematic reviews
WHAT WHO-TDR/EC-DEVCO COLLABORATION ACHIEVES

1. Contributes and fosters international collaborative research through partnership
2. Contributes to providing evidence for policy and practice
3. Contributes to building and strengthening research and health systems capacity
4. Helps convert new policies into practice
   - Involves Ministries of Health in defining policy and innovating service delivery through research and other forms of evidence generation
5. Serves global development goals
   - MDGs, SDGs can be equally served through international cooperation in research-to-policy-and practice
THANK YOU

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