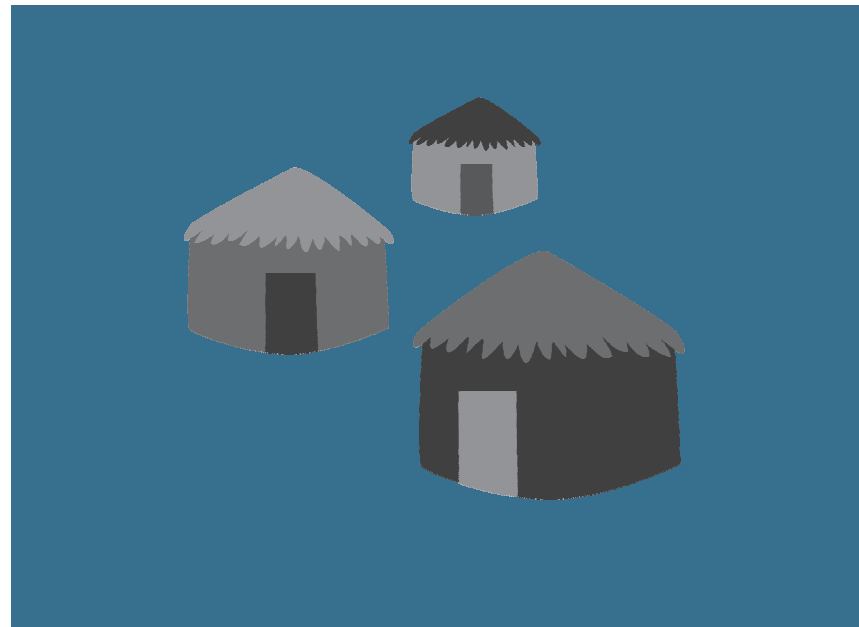
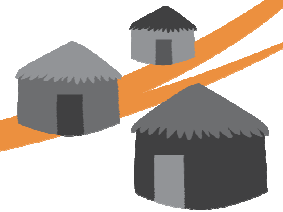


Institutionalizing Community Health Conference



27-30 March 2017 | Johannesburg, South Africa



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CHW Symposium: Lessons learned and implications for Uganda

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Ag. Commissioner for Community Health
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Uganda

Uganda's current community health system

- Village Health Teams (VHTs) were introduced to the system in 2001 to bridge the gap between community members and health facilities and empower communities to improve their health
- VHTs are volunteer-based, chosen by their village – approx. 180,000
- VHTs conduct outreach, mobilise communities for utilization of health services and health action, community case management and follow-up for major killer diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia
- Through an in-depth assessment, many challenges including lack of ownership, sustainability, governance, motivation, clear selection procedures, and training, were identified

Uganda's current community health system

- Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) are to be introduced to further strengthen the health care system in Uganda.
- CHEWs programme developed based on findings from VHT assessment and high impact practices from other countries.
- CHEW strategy is designed to address the challenges that hampered VHTs (training, motivation, management, etc).
- 15,000 CHEWs will be trained (2 CHEWs per parish)
- CHEWs will focus on the household as the catalyst to promote health
- CHEWs will work with the current VHTs to reorient the minds of people on what constitutes health – safe and healthy practices to prevent communicable and non-communicable diseases

Contributions to Symposium

- Host country
- MOH part of coordination committee, participating in the planning and logistics of conference
- MOH presentations and participation throughout Symposium
- Presentations highlighting best practices, lessons learned, and challenges from Uganda – including government, NGOs, CBOs, donor agencies, implementing partners, among others
- CHEW strategy discussed
- Extensive networking with colleagues from 22 countries

Lessons learned

Strong examples from other countries in the areas of:

- Systems strengthening
- Governance
- Accountability
- Coordination of partner implementation
- Community engagement
- Improving motivation and retention of health workers

Identification of key countries to continue to explore community health systems to inform the CHEW programme.

Way forward

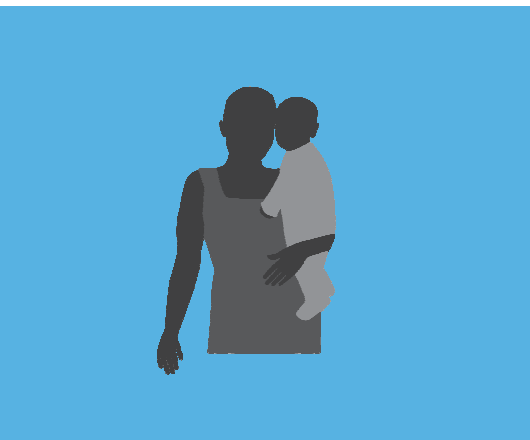
CHEWs are being introduced to improve health outcomes and strengthen the health care system. The Symposium was a strong platform to

- Build relationships and networks to continue conversations to inform new and strengthen existing policies and strategies, specifically CHEWs
- Compare community health models, governance structures and mechanisms to assist in informing the ongoing development of the CHEWs programme

Hope to continue discussions and knowledge sharing at ICHC to further strengthen Uganda's health sector and inform CHEWs programme.



Thank you



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