

Questions for Student Discussion on Lessons Learned

Please note:

This is a list of questions that students prepared to discuss with the faculty. Please note all questions listed may not have been asked in the order presented in this document. Also, due to time limitations all questions may not be asked or discussed.

Re national health system:

What is the role of community-based care within the larger context of a national health system?

Can community-based care ever be scaled up enough to have 100% coverage in a country?

Re dealing with communities/cultural context:

Over and over, we see that communities that demonstrate remarkable health outcomes are those that are more egalitarian and when community members themselves are active and personally invested. Why would the elite groups in a community give up their power and social status to help others?

Re living and working in the field:

Is it crucial to live with the community to produce change? If yes, for how long?

What should our role be – a leader, a manager, or a mentor?

What are the challenges/advantages of moving to a developing country and living in the field with a spouse/family?

Re three-way partnership:

A successful partnership occurs when there is a healthy collaboration between three major sectors: experts, governments, and communities. Sometimes, however, one of these sectors may disagree among themselves. An example of this is the government sector whereby the ministry of health may agree and collaborate well with communities and experts, however, once scaling begins, other ministries (e.g. education, environment, commerce) may not agree with the project's mission. What are some things that can be done to encourage collaboration within the different entities in a sector?

Re issues of empowerment:

The current trends of international NGOs (in the context of post-tsunami, in particular) is to provide vast amount of cash for various programs (e.g. livelihood programs) such as work programs and cash grants that directly give cash to beneficiaries, with the intention of facilitating empowerment.

Do these programs create relationships of dependence rather than facilitate empowerment?