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Community Coalitions

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Community Coalitions

- An organization of individuals representing diverse organizations, factions, or constituencies who agree to work together in order to achieve a common goal.

- An organization of diverse interest groups that combine their human and material resources to effect a specific change which members are unable to bring about independently.

Continued
Community Coalitions

- May focus on
  - Locality development
  - Community action
United Coalitions

- Enable organizations to become involved in new and broader issues without having the sole responsibility for managing or developing those issues
- Demonstrate and develop widespread public support for issues, actions, or unmet needs
United Coalitions

- Maximize the power of individuals and groups through joint action
  - Increase critical mass behind community effort by helping individuals achieve objectives beyond the scope of any one individual or organization
United Coalitions

- Minimize duplication of effort and services, resulting in improved communication and trust among partners

Continued
United Coalitions

- Help mobilize more talents, resources, and approaches to influence an issue than any single organization could achieve alone
United Coalitions

- Provide an avenue for recruiting participants from diverse constituencies
  - Politics
  - Business
  - Human service
  - Social and religious groups
  - Individuals

Continued
United Coalitions

- Exploit new resources in changing situations because of their flexible nature
Types of Community Coalitions

- **Grassroots coalitions**
  - Organized by volunteers in times of crisis to pressure policy makers to act

- **Professional coalitions**
  - Bring professional organizations together for a crisis or longer term action when their combined power and influence is needed
Types of Community Coalitions

- **Community-based coalitions**
  - Bring professionals and grassroots leaders together to influence more long-term health and welfare practices for their communities.
Successful Coalitions

- Exchange of resources among member organizations
- Inter-organizational cooperation, payoffs, benefits of joining
- Minimum size to make the coalition effective
Successful Coalitions

- Clear recognition and clear articulation of a mutual need or concern
- History of previous collaboration and joint efforts
- Compatibility among potential partners
- Determination to work together
Community Coalition Needs

- Formalized rules, roles, and procedures
- Strong central leadership
- Diversity of members who bring a wide range of skills and resources
- Organizational climate that fosters good relations among members
Community Coalition Needs

- External supports that facilitate resource exchange and community linkages
Community Coalition Needs

- Achievement of goals for the coalition of stay together
  - Short-term successes increase member motivation and pride, and enhance credibility of coalition
  - Observable indicators of progress toward the more long-term goals of the coalition
Community Partners for Health—Lagos

- Community-based coalitions
  - CBOs and professionals
- Memorandum of understanding
- Boards and memberships
- Clear child health goals
CPH Structure with Dyads

Health Facility A

- Market Women Assoc
- Apostolic Church
- Muslim Youth Group
- Itire Neighborhood Association
- Amuludun Social Club

Health Facility B

- Tailors' Union
- Hairdressers' Association
- Unity Women's Club
- Alfanda Residents' Association
- Transport Workers Union
Community Partners for Health—Lagos

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Community Partners for Health—Lagos

- Short-term successes
  - Environmental sanitation
  - Immunization coverage
- Long-term efforts
  - Fundraising
  - Savings cooperatives
Mobilization for Immunization

Source: The Basics
CPH women members are empowered to take decisions on child care and through micro-credit loans
CPH Lessons

- Attention to existing social units of identity (CBOs) is the basis for successful coalitions
- Community coalitions can reach out to obtain external resources
- Successful coalitions are associated with heightened community efficacy