Community Participation

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Section A

What Is Participation?
Community participation: The centerpiece of PHC
From Alma Ata

- *Primary health care* is essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound, and socially acceptable methods and technology
- Made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community
- Through their full participation, and
From Alma Ata

- At a cost that the community and country can afford to maintain at every stage of their development
- In the spirit of self-reliance and self-determination
PHC Requires and Promotes

- Maximum community and individual self-reliance
- Participation in the planning, organization, operation, and control of primary health care
- Making fullest use of local, national, and other available resources
PHC Requires and Promotes

- To this end, develop through appropriate education the ability of communities to participate
What Constitutes Participation

- Active involvement of the local population in the decision making and implementation of development projects
What Constitutes Participation

- Role of the community
  - Formulating a health program
  - Enabling its residents to understand and make informed choices
  - Reconciling outside objectives with community priorities

Continued
What Constitutes Participation

- The community both determines collective needs and priorities, and assumes responsibility for these decisions
Why Participation?
Assumptions about Participation Effects

- Increases program acceptance, ownership
- Ensures programs meet local needs
- May reduce costs using local resources
- Uses local/familiar organizations, problem solving mechanisms—more efficient
- Some examples follow
Promoting Filters by VHWs

Product, price, place and promotion organized by VHWs
Participation Effects

Guinea Worm Filter Sales Where VHW Takes Part

- VHW sold
- VHW advised
- No VHW
Community Involvement in Water Supply Improvements

- Raising money
- Helping dig
- Dedicating the well
- Supervising use and maintenance

*Community involvement*
Community involvement
Participation in Water Supply Project

Multiplier Effect on Immunization Participation
Community-Managed Essential Drugs

VHWs Buy and Maintain Stock

- % buy stock
- mean times buy

Community Controlled
LGA Controlled
Community Meetings to Discuss CDTI

- Community organization for program specific goals
- Principles of active participation are maintained
- Local decision making and commitment to decisions facilitated
Community meeting
CDTI vs Program-Directed
Effect on Ivermectin Coverage (TDR/APOC)
**WARMI Means Woman**

*Save the Children*

- Community organization
- Community groups determine priorities
- Plan projects
- Acquire resources
- Administer and coordinate

Source: Save the Children
WARMI: The Community Planning Cycle

- Identification and prioritization of problems
- Planning together
- Implementation by community members
- Evaluation by community members
Community Problem Solving

Source: Save the Children
Participatory Approach to Improve MCH

In Bolivia, Women’s Groups Plan Their Own Program

![Bar Chart]

- Perinatal Mort
- Contra Use
- TT Cover
- ANC Visit
- Trained Attend
- Initiate BF

Follow-up vs Baseline
Section B

Levels of Involvement
Levels of Involvement

Involvement Vs. Participation

- Acceptance—Utilize
- Mobilization—Contribute
- Participation—Implement
- Involvement—Plan
- Control/ownership—Community directs; toward increasing community ownership
Levels of Participation

Amount of involvement

Level of Participation

accept  mobiliz  particip  involve  control
Acceptance Can Be Likened to Passive Participation

- *Passive participation* includes complete cooperation on the part of the community in the implementation of the program to achieve the objectives and targets set for the program
  - Does not ask of the community contributions in terms of resources, cash, or labor
Acceptance Can Be Likened to Passive Participation

- Education aims at motivation for completion of the tasks determined by the agency
What Is Mobilization?

- A broad-scale movement to engage large numbers of people in action for achieving a specific development goal through self-reliant effort.
- A process of bringing together inter-sectoral social allies to raise awareness and demand for a particular development program, to assist in the delivery of resources and services.

Continued
What Is Mobilization?

This approach, combined with community participation, has also proved to be a very important tool in helping to create a supportive environment for sustainable behavior change.
Participation or Taking Part

*In Something Designed/Planned by Others*

- **Active participation**—Inputs are provided by both the government and local population
- The importance of identifying appropriate community members to take a lead in community-based activities
Participation or Taking Part

In Something Designed/Planned by Others

Although based in the community and with inputs from the community—including even leadership and resources—participation may not be of the community
Involvement Addresses Ownership

- The ideas may still come from outside but the community internalizes them
- Depends on the voluntary contribution (e.g., of labor, funds, and resources)
- Community ownership of the program or intervention is a key to its sustainability

Continued
Involvement Addresses Ownership

- Only when the intervention is seen as belonging to them can they be expected to take responsibility for maintaining the activities and improving upon them.
Community Control

- Change is directed by the community
- Community identifies the problem
- Makes all key decisions on goals and means
- The organization is willing to help [facilitate] the community at each step to accomplish its goals
- The approach to change is normative/re-educative
Community control comes when members get together and make decisions
Facilitation vs Participation

- Facilitation is open-ended
  - “Do you have health problems? What do you think causes them? What do you want to do about them? How can we help?”
  - Issues perceived by the community to belong to themselves—more likely to be sustainable
Facilitation vs Participation

- Participation is program-specific
  - “We want to eliminate onchocerciasis. We need your help. This is what you need to do. Will you help?”
  - Issue perceived by the community to belong to the health workers—remains the ultimate responsibility of the health workers
How to Facilitate?

- How to promote community control?
- Can we listen?
- Can we learn from local knowledge?
- Can we adopt new roles?
- Can we allow and enable front-line health workers themselves to be involved in programming?
Are Health Workers Ready for New Roles and Relationships?

- Facilitating community involvement
- Listening to community concerns
- Respecting community views
- Working together as partners
- Encouraging community decisions
- Standing by community decisions
- Helping communities link with resources