How to strengthen community systems to increase impact? Country experiences

A #CommunityHealth@CountryLevel Series with CCMs, PRs and SRs

22 February 2023
In one word, how would you describe Community Systems?

In introduction to the webinar, participants were asked to describe community systems in one word on Menti. Their answers read as follows.
| **Community Systems** | Organizations, mechanisms and networks that make community responses happen - distinct from, but complementary to, and often linked to, the formal part of health systems |
| **Community Responses (based or led)** | The way communities act on the challenges and needs that they face, responses delivered by community-based or community-led organizations within, partially or completely outside of the formal health system |
| **Community Systems Strengthening (CSS)** | A set of interventions that promote informed, capable and coordinated community responses and improve community responses and accelerate in-country results |
Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) at the Global Fund: the interventions

<table>
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<th>Priority interventions supported in Global Fund grants</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community-led monitoring</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective: Empower communities to hold service providers accountable so that <strong>services are accessible, of quality, acceptable and responsive</strong> to people's needs</td>
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<td>Country examples from Technical Brief:</td>
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<td>▪ Implementing community-based monitoring of HIV treatment, <em>West Africa</em></td>
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<td>▪ Establishing a human rights observatory to inform advocacy, <em>Cameroon</em></td>
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<td><strong>Community-led advocacy and research</strong></td>
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<td>Prioritizes community-led and participatory research that provides a better understanding of barriers and gaps that inhibit effective, people-centered health services from the community</td>
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<td>▪ Developing civil society priorities charters, <em>Sub-Saharan Africa</em></td>
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<td>▪ Engaging key and vulnerable populations in transition planning, <em>Costa Rica</em></td>
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<td><strong>Community engagement, linkages and coordination</strong></td>
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<td>Activities to mobilize communities, particularly of marginalized, underserved and key and vulnerable populations, in responses to the three diseases and beyond</td>
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<td>▪ Developing a malaria platform for communities and civil society, <em>Greater Mekong Sub-region</em></td>
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<td>▪ Building community partnerships across diseases, <em>Tanzania</em></td>
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<td><strong>Capacity building and leadership development</strong></td>
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<td>Contribute to effective and quality community-led and community-based service delivery at scale while improving the sustainability of community organizing</td>
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<td>▪ Building organizational and technical capacity for integrated programs, <em>Ghana</em></td>
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<td>▪ Strengthening key and vulnerable population leadership and institutions, <em>Kenya</em></td>
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How does Community Systems Strengthening fit within the Global Fund Strategy?

**OUR PRIMARY GOAL**
- END AIDS, TB AND MALARIA
- WORKING WITH AND TO SERVE THE HEALTH NEEDS OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

**MUTUALLY REINFORCING CONTRIBUTORY OBJECTIVES**
- Maximizing People-centered Integrated Systems for Health to Deliver Impact, Resilience and Sustainability
- Maximizing the Engagement and Leadership of Most Affected Communities to Leave No One Behind
- Maximizing Health Equity, Gender Equality and Human Rights

**EVOLVING OBJECTIVE**
- Mobilizing Increased Resources
- Contribute to Pandemic Preparedness and Response

**DELIVERED THROUGH THE INCLUSIVE GLOBAL FUND PARTNERSHIP MODEL**
- Partnership Enablers
  - Raising and effectively investing additional resources behind strong, country-owned plans, to maximize progress towards the 2030 SDG targets
  - Operationalized through the Global Fund Partnership, with clear roles & accountabilities, in support of country ownership

**Maximizing People-centered Integrated Systems for Health to Deliver Impact, Resilience and Sustainability**
- To catalyze sustainable HTM and broader health outcomes and in support of UHC, the Global Fund will strengthen RSSH by supporting countries and communities to:
  - Deliver integrated, people-centered quality services
  - Strengthen and reinforce community systems and community-led programming, integrated within national health and social systems
  - Strengthen generation and use of quality, timely, transparent, and disaggregated digital and secure data at all levels, aligned with human rights principles
  - Strengthen the ecosystem of quality supply chains to improve the end-to-end management of national health products and laboratory services
  - NextGen market shaping focus on equitable access to quality health products through innovation, partnership, and promoting sustainable sourcing and supply chains at global, national and community levels
  - As part of Global Fund efforts to strengthen country oversight of the overall health system, better engage and harness the private sector to improve the scale, quality and affordability of services wherever patients seek it
  - Deepen partnerships between governments & non-public sector actors to enhance sustainability, transition-readiness and reach of services, including through social contracting

**Maximizing the Engagement and Leadership of Most Affected Communities to Leave No One Behind**
- To deliver greater impact and ensure the HTM response is responsive to and led by those living with and most affected by the 3 diseases, the Global Fund will reinforce community leadership by:
  - Accelerating the evolution of CCMs and community-led platforms to strengthen inclusive decision-making, oversight and evaluation throughout Global Fund-related processes
  - Evolving Global Fund business processes, guidelines, tools and practices to support community-led organizations to deliver services and oversight, and to be engaged as providers of technical expertise
  - Supporting community- and civil society-led advocacy to reinforce the prioritization of health investments and drive toward UHC
  - Expanding partnerships with communities living with and affected by emerging and related health areas to support more inclusive, responsive and effective systems for health
Investing in Community Systems Strengthening is key to improve HIV, TB and Malaria responses and outcomes.

Investments in CSS contribute to reducing barriers to services, advocating for accelerated introduction and uptake of new technologies and policy reforms to address social determinants of health.
Community Systems Strengthening in practice: **Mali**, HIV, community-led-advocacy

The issue: ARVs were not accessible. ARCAD Santé Plus Mali (PR in Mali) supported **social mobilization** via the creation of PLHIV networks. In 2001, the ‘Mali ARVs Access Initiative’ was formed.

**CSS:** Between 2001 and 2004, the ‘Mali ARVs Access Initiative’ engaged in community-led advocacy work.

**Impact:** In 2004, the Authorities in Mali declare **ARVs are free for all**.
The issue: The war, an acute emergency, puts HIV and TB gains under threat. How to maintain essential HIV and TB services?

CSS: Years of investments in building the capacity of civil society and community-led-organizations enabled them to play a key role in TB and HIV programs and reach those in need.

Results:
- Rapid estimation of the needs from communities
- Prevent ART and OST stock-outs and treatment interruption
- CSOs/CBOs providing prevention, care and support services, reaching last mile
- Leverage support from humanitarian partners such as health cluster
Community Systems Strengthening in practice: EECA, TB, social mobilization

The issue: “Ukraine inherited from the Soviet TB service a system of TB hospitals where people with TB were locked up for six months or more” (Petro, Ukraine).

CSS: “Thanks to Global Fund advocacy projects…and (and) community mobilization, more and more patients were transferred to outpatient treatment” (Petro, Ukraine)

Result: In a similar shift to outpatient treatment that resulted from social mobilization in Georgia, the rate of lost to follow-up reduced from 12% to 6% within only 6 months.
Discussion

Participants from Colombia, Honduras, Madagascar, Peru, Tanzania, etc. shared their country experiences on community systems strengthening.
Before the closing, participants were asked what they would remember from the event.

- CSS can have impact
- Need to prioritise CSS
- Pues me llevo la necesidad de trabajar con las ong y conectarse con ellas y el servicio de salud para fomentar su participación
- Many examples from GF funding that benefited CSS. Perhaps have concrete examples. PSI also heavily engaged - references available which may be cited
- Understanding of community lead monitoring, role of communities in responding to the needs. The collaborations and its implication on the implementation of the grant to the affected one. The need to ensure linkage with governments.
- Como nos hermanan las problemáticas con independencia de la región
- We got the strength to keep developing community health actions! We are not alone :)
- It is good to see the definitions shared
- Impact of CSOs and CBOs in providing community services during war
- Other countries experiences. Very useful
- CBO play critical role service delivery
- Super!
- The way to have access to technical Assistance by Community
Thank you!