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SE4-SE5

Title

Strengthening the role of Community Health Workers in Achieving Universal Healthcare Coverage: Moving from Fragmentation to Synergy

Organiser

USAID in collaboration with: Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, Global Health Workforce Alliance, University Research Co.

Objective

Four distinct global events were held in 2012 that each focused on elements of Community Health Worker (CHW) effectiveness. This demonstrated common interest and goals across partners in promoting evidence-informed effective, efficient, and sustainable approaches to increasing CHW capacity. Additionally, of recent, increased attention has been placed on the important role that CHWs can have in working towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This common set of themes across partners resulted in GHWA’s identification of the need for greater synergy and collaboration for CHW initiatives and organization of a working group on CHWs to develop a global agenda to support CHW program performance and scale-up. To initiate the development of the agenda, three working papers have been commissioned that outline 1) a framework for partners’ harmonized support to countries 2) a monitoring and accountability framework for CHW programs and 3)a global CHW research agenda. This side event will convene the members of the GHWA working group on CHWs to consider the three working papers developed to date and determine next steps to developing synergy among partners working on CHW programs. This includes discussion of commitments by partners for this synergy and to monitoring and evaluating their actions within the framework for harmonized support. These commitments will then be announced in the main Forum. Time will also be allotted for partners to give updates on CHW activities and programs and to discuss how they fit within the context of the three working papers.
Outcome

Dissemination of the three working papers: 1) framework for partners’ harmonized support to countries 2) monitoring and accountability framework for CHW programs and 3) a global CHW research agenda; 2. GHWA CHW Working Group member updates on their CHW activities and programs and discussion of commitments to synergy and accountability to the framework for harmonization to be announced in the main Forum; 3. Discussion and plans next steps to developing synergy among partners working on CHW programs.