Sustainable and Gender Equitable Capacity Building for Health Financing in Africa

Emerging themes from ongoing landscaping work

Financing Primary Health Care: Opportunities at the Boundaries
Interactions & Questions: Virtual Participants

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Side Event 7
Capacity Building for Sustainable, Gender Equitable Health Financing Expertise in Africa

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June 16th / 15:00 – 16:30 EST
Health Financing scope

• The capacity needs and gaps are broader than the traditional areas of expertise such as purchasing, pooling etc.

  • Governments are also asking for more functional skills sets e.g. data analytics, actuarial analysis etc.

  • How do we identify & address this capacity constraints?
MOF/MOH Relationship

- In a number of cases, economists, accountants and finance teams in the planning and finance departments of MOH are posted there by MOF (Malawi and Kenya)
  - These teams in MOH mostly track expenditures and rarely involved in the broader health financing cascade
  - Gaps in public finance management skills among non-finance officers who participate in budget formulation and execution
HR Management

• Hiring of staff in Ministries of Health and Finance is central through public service commission/ministry/department:
  
  • Mostly not linked to the skill-set needs of the departments or agencies
    
    • This also applies to in-service capacity building approaches
  
  • Existing laws on gender equity on hiring centrally – mostly doesn’t translate at ministry level
    
    • Some countries have explicit gender equity law of hiring – Kenya, has the 1/3 gender rule
  
  • Replacement policy in cases of attrition is unclear and hence the process in ad hoc and doesn’t respond to capacity gaps.
MOF/MOH relationship with Universities

• Little communication between the government departments and universities on the capacity needs to inform courses and programmes relevant to health financing.

• Some universities and research institutions have different approaches to creating linkages with government:
  
  • Internships at MOF/MOH
  
  • Health systems fellowship program for staff in MOH, NGOs, etc. at Makerere School of Public Health
Evolving role of regional bodies in HF capacity strengthening

• Supporting governments in building health financing capacity initiatives
  • Support universities to tailor their HF programs to meet the needs of the government
  • Create a platform for funders, academics, policy makers to engage in HF capacity strengthening.
  • Channel resources, lead development of a common framework and monitor progress in health financing capacity.

• Health Financing Capacity Building initiatives by WB, IMF, WHO, etc.
  • International Monetary Fund – Micro and Macroeconomics courses
  • World Bank – Health financing course, health economics
  • WHO – Health Financing Course
Timeline of selected HF/HE&P capacity milestones in Africa

1990
- WBI Global Flagship Program (1995)

2000
- EVIPNet (2004)
- AERC collaborative PhD programme (CPP) (2002)

2010
- WHO Advanced Course on HF for UHC (2014)
- ReACH / EAHRC (2007)
- AfHEA (2009)
- CABRI (2005)
- HEAR PhD programme (2009)
- HE²RO (South Africa) (2004)

2020
- Africa CDC (HEU) (2020)
- UiB / Africa CDC HEU PhD position (2022)
- Zimbabwe MOH HE Unit (2022?)
- MakSPH HE Unit (2022/23)
- MakSPH / UiB / U-Malawi HE PhD fellowship (2020)
- Zimbabwe MOH HE Unit (2022?)
- UiB / Africa CDC HEU PhD position (2022)

NATIONALLY BASED

- Ifakara (Tanzania) (1996)
- UNZA (Zambia) linked with IHE (1995)
- UCT (South Africa) HE MSc program (1990)
- KWTRP (Kenya) (1989)

REGIONAL / GLOBAL

- Sida support to UCT & HEPNet (1999)
- CHP (South Africa) research unit (1998)
- CESAG (Senegal) HE MSc programme (1998)
- HEARD research unit, (South Africa) (1998)
- HEARD (South Africa) (2004)
- HE²RO programme (2004)
- EVIPNet (2004)
- AfHEA (2009)
- REACH / EAHRC (2007)
- AfHEA (2009)
- CABRI (2005)
- Harmonization for Health in Africa (HHA) (2005)

- Thanzí La Onse (2017)
- SPARC (Amref) (2018)
- SPARC (Amref) (2018)
- Kenya HERU (2016)
- Ethiopia FMOH HEFA (2015)

U-Malawi HEPU (2018)
- U-Malawi HEPU (2018)
- MakSPH HE Unit (2022/23)
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