Strategies to support the COVID-19 response in LMICs

A virtual seminar series
Community Health Impact Coalition

Supporting Community Health Workers on the Frontlines of the Global COVID-19 Response
Community Health Impact Coalition

The Coalition exists to make professionalized CHWs a norm worldwide.
Community Health Impact Coalition

TOGETHER WE

1. Identify practices that fuel quality care delivery
2. Accompany partners to adopt those practices
## Today’s Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:10</td>
<td>WELCOME &amp; OVERVIEW</td>
<td>Ramatu Usman Jalloh, CHW Supervisor, <em>Ministry of Health (Partners In Health - Sierra Leone)</em></td>
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<td>9:10-9:25</td>
<td>PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE:</td>
<td>Dr. Madeleine Ballard, Executive Director, <em>Community Health Impact Coalition (CHIC)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>(1) Protect, (2) Interrupt, (3) Maintain, (4) Shield</td>
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<td>9:25-9:30</td>
<td>JOINING THE FIGHT</td>
<td>Dr. Madeleine Ballard &amp; CHWs from across the Coalition</td>
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<td>9:30-10:00</td>
<td>QUESTIONS &amp; DISCUSSION</td>
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Welcome and Overview
• COVID-19 disproportionately affects the **poor and vulnerable**

• **Community health workers** are poised to play a pivotal role in fighting the pandemic, especially in countries with less resilient health systems
CHW PROGRAMS CAN:

- Improve access to healthcare
  Reach the unreached

- Reduce morbidity and mortality
  Save 2M lives annually

- Reduce the risk of pandemics
  Identify the next Ebola early

- Lower costs/Improve growth
  Create an ROI of $10:1

Byrne (2014); Chou (2017); Dahn (2015); Kruk (2015)
What’s Needed on the Frontlines

Ramatu Usman Jalloh, Community Health Worker Supervisor, Partners In Health, Sierra Leone
Programmatic Response

01 Protect health workers
02 Interrupt transmission of the virus
03 Maintain existing health services
04 Shield the most vulnerable
01 PROTECT health workers

NOW
Anticipation | Early Detection | Containment

- Invest in securing needed PPE
- Ensure community health workers are included in PPE projections
- Strengthen support structures to care for the mental health and well-being of frontline health workers

NEXT
Control | Elimination

- Work with governments to pay CHWs for supplemental hours

Read more at http://rebrand.ly/COVID-Priorities
CHWs are least likely to get personal protective equipment (surgical masks, gloves, eye protection - PPE) but it’s critical they get it.

**PPE should depend on the service provided, not on the service provider.**

Source:
- [https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/covid-19-it-aint-over-until-theres-ppe-all-over](https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/covid-19-it-aint-over-until-theres-ppe-all-over)
**02** INTERRUPT the virus

### NOW

**Anticipation | Early Detection | Containment**

- Train community health teams to prevent, detect, & respond to the virus; leveraging digital platforms where possible
- Continue to invest in adapting training as the pandemic evolves

### NEXT

**Control | Elimination**

- Continue to invest in ongoing training for community health teams

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Roles for community-based PHC teams</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PREVENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Community education and engagement</td>
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<td>- Organize hand hygiene stations</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Support, lead or reinforce Infection Prevention &amp; Control measures</td>
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<td>- Prepare for the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines</td>
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<td><strong>DETECT</strong></td>
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<td>- Identify signs and symptoms</td>
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<td>- Conduct COVID-19 testing or support sample collection &amp; transport</td>
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<td>- Enter alerts into community event-based surveillance systems</td>
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<td><strong>RESPOND</strong></td>
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<td>- Combat misinformation in COVID-19 areas</td>
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<td>- Support self-isolation (including food, social and medical support)</td>
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<td>- Monitor and refer patients for clinical deterioration</td>
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<td>- Contact tracing, symptom reporting and monitoring of contacts</td>
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### MAINTAIN essential health services

#### NOW

- Ensure CHWs as part of PHC teams are incorporated into COVID planning - adapting protocols to reduce potential harm to CHWs while strengthening existing service delivery
- Invest in the national supply chain to quantify demand and coordinate distribution of essential commodities and surge supplies

#### NEXT

- Invest to quantify the need for expanded or back-up coverage and undertake necessary CHW and CHW Supervisor recruitment

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EPIDEMICS CAN LEAD TO A COLLAPSE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

- The 50% reduction in access to healthcare services because of Ebola caused an estimated 10,600 additional deaths due to untreated conditions in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
- Loss of doctors, nurses, and midwives from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone estimated to have led to an approximately 75% increase in maternal mortality across the countries, ranging from a 38% increase in Guinea to an 111% increase in Liberia.
- 17,300 children lost one or both parents to Ebola, more than 33 weeks of education were lost due to school closures, and there was a 30% decline in childhood vaccination coverage.

CHWS CAN HELP PREVENT PHC SYSTEM COLLAPSE

### 04 SHIELD the most vulnerable

**NOW**

**Anticipation | Early Detection | Containment**

- Support immediate cash injections at the household level and the creation of neighbourhood plans to protect the most vulnerable
- Work with governments and funding partners to ensure that budgets for CHWs incorporate holistic support

**NEXT**

**Control | Elimination**

- Issue a call for Multilaterals, Regional Development Banks and national governments to establish economic recovery initiatives
- Invest in surveillance of emerging disease hotspots, typically in LMICs

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Joining the Fight
Here’s how you can act:

1. GET THE EVIDENCE
Read [Special COVID-19 Community Health Research Round-up](#) on the roles of CHWs in pandemics & epidemics & [Prevent, Detect, Respond](#). Sign-up for future issues [here](#).

2. TRADE NOTES
The Coalition convenes 100s of implementers each week on the Community Health Program & Operations Call (Friday, 11am ET) to solve for emerging issues in the response. To join us, [sign up](#).

3. MAKE CONCRETE PLANS
Learn the targeted actions needed to [protect, interrupt, maintain, and shield](#) + make sure they are in place.
Here’s how you can act:

4. SHARE RESOURCES
Live resource wiki on which the wider Global Health community has been sharing COVID-19 explainers, internal policies, clinical protocols, & more. Protocol resource wiki for clinical questions.

5. STRENGTHEN SYSTEMS
Use available tools like AIM (program planning) and MSH/UNICEF (program costing).

6. ADVOCATE.
None of us are safe until all health workers are protected. The time to start is now. Achieving personal protective equipment (PPE) for all is not only necessary, but possible. Here’s how.
Follow @CHW_Impact on Twitter for an announcement on Tuesday, August 11
COVID-19 is a moral litmus test

All of us have a role to play
QUESTIONS

Madeleine Ballard
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