USING PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

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About Global Integrity

Global Integrity is a non-profit organization that works with government and civil society partners in countries and communities around the world, supporting their efforts to address complex challenges relating to corruption, the use of resources and the delivery of public services. We have a diverse and global team of 15 staff members in north and south America, Europe and Africa, with our main office at the Open Gov Hub in Washington D.C., which we co-founded in 2012.

Established in 2005, we have a track record of developing and deploying innovative approaches to assessing and addressing governance-related challenges. Since 2015 our work has helped to put learning-centered and adaptive approaches at the heart of the governance and development agenda, as well as informing policy and practice relating to transparency and open data. To find out more about our work, please visit our website, and see this two page summary of our strategy and the ways in which we implement it.

Meet our project team:

Alan Hudson
Executive Director

Yeukai Mukorombindo
Manager, Research & Learning

Raquel Rubio
Director for Listening & Learning

Courtney Tolmie
System Thinking Consultant
Why participatory approaches for health systems strengthening?

In many countries around the world, people are not able to access the health services they need, which has dire implications for individuals, families, communities, and the ability of countries to meet their commitments to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being.

The specific reasons why countries struggle to deliver health services effectively vary by country, within countries, and across different health issues. But many of these reasons have some roots in governance and accountability breakdowns, which are sometimes overlooked when actors focus on the technical challenges that health systems face. Our project aims to support the people and organizations who are part of health systems to address the interrelated technical and political economy problems that limit the performance of those systems and their ability to deliver health services effectively.

Our approach involves providing tailored support and facilitation of a Participatory Systems Thinking Approach (PSTA) and associated cycles of collaborative action and learning. This approach builds on a growing consensus about the contribution that problem-driven cycles of action and learning can make to addressing complex challenges that have both political economy and technical aspects, and to improving the governance and functioning of such systems.

At Global Integrity we believe that when this system of actors works well together, health service delivery improves. When they don’t, it doesn’t.

We are hoping that after participating in the PTSA and its associated cycles of collaborative action and learning, health systems actors will:

- Deepen their understanding of the systemic nature of the challenges they face
- Strengthen their relationships with other actors in the system
- Enhance the flow of information and feedback in the system
- Collaborate more effectively

If we all operate in more collaborative, learning-centered And adaptive ways, we can improve the dynamics of the systems that we are part of, in a way that contribute to health services being delivered more effectively, in ways that better meet people’s needs.
Meet our partners

Global Integrity is testing, adapting and learning from the implementation of the PSTA with:

The Centre for the Study of Adolescence (CSA).

Based in Kenya, CSA a leading national organization committed to the promotion of the health and development of young people through research, technical assistance, advocacy and capacity building to expand choices and improve access to safe, affordable and sustainable health services.

IPAS-Malawi

An international NGO, that supports government and civil society to make Malawi’s health and human rights commitments a reality for women and girls. Since 2005, IPAS-Malawi has engaged with government officials, religious leaders, and community actors to highlight the dangers of unsafe abortion and build support for abortion law reform.

To help us tailor and implement the PTSA, GI has partnered with The African Health Innovation Center (AHIC) a Ghana based organization focused on strengthening Africa’s burgeoning health innovation ecosystem and empowering emerging leaders to improve health outcomes through entrepreneurship and innovation.
The Participatory Systems Thinking Approach (PSTA)

The PTSA is designed for systems actors who have identified a health service delivery problem where they would like to focus their efforts. Throughout the entire cycle, the GI and AHIC team will provide tailored support and expertise to the team. In addition to a prep phase, where the GI and AHIC team tailored the approach to the realities and needs of CSA and Ipas-Malawi, our cycle has 3 participatory steps that are designed as part of a series of learning and adaptation cycles, accompanied by evidence generation that will help our partners and stakeholders to reflect on progress and what they learn about the system as they implement actions and adapt based on these learnings.

1&2. Acting & Planning Workshops (SEPT 2021)

1. Mapping the problem
   - Part 1: Systems Problem Mapping – what are the drivers and causes underlying the focus HS problem?
   - Part 2: Understanding Context – what is the role of contextual, technical and political economy factors (including system actors) in helping/hindering these problems?
   - Part 3: Prioritizing Entry Points – what parts of the problems and context map do stakeholders have the best chance of changing?

2. Planning to address the problem
   - Part 4: Action Planning – what actions can stakeholders design and implement to address these problems and context factors?

3. Acting to address the problem

More information about the location and the detailed agenda will be shared soon.

We are looking forward to having you in this workshop!