

Management Capacity Building Activities in Malawi

Background and Goals

The U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is collaborating with the Malawi Ministry of Health (MOH) to strengthen public health management in order to make the most effective use of available health-related resources and improve health outcomes. Specifically, CDC's Sustainable Management Development Program (SMDP) and the Malawi MOH are helping hospital and program managers to improve HIV/AIDS and other public health-related programs in hospitals and district health centers. At the same time CDC/SMDP and the Malawi MOH are advising District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) on ways to improve health planning in order to address local needs more effectively.



Funding and Partnerships

The following organizations in Malawi are involved in this collaboration:

- Malawi Ministry of Health
- Malawi District Health Management Teams
- University of Malawi College of Medicine

Improving HIV/AIDS Program Work Processes

Malawi graduates of the CDC/SMDP Management for International Public Health (MIPH) course have trained 135 Malawian HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) program managers in how to improve processes in hospitals and clinics in order to benefit patients, their families, and others in the community.

DHMTs are using MIPH planning and decision-making tools in 29 hospitals to analyze health problems, establish priorities, and develop intervention strategies to address serious health problems like malaria, high maternal mortality, and HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS and TB program managers and their worksite teams have completed nearly 30 MIPH applied management improvement projects to date. For example, using process improvement tools teams have

- Increased the percentage of smear-positive TB patients who began treatment within seven days from 50% to 90%,
- Increased the percentage of HIV-positive patients referred to support groups from 47% to 98%, and
- Increased the percentage of newly diagnosed TB patients who received health education counseling on TB medication compliance from 0% to 80%.

The Malawi MOH has publicized results of successful projects like these at its national meetings to encourage management teams at other sites to adopt these promising practices. The Malawi MOH has also incorporated the MIPH planning and decision-making tools into its annual District Implementation Planning process.

Building Sustainability

In order to insure the sustainability of its leadership and management program, the Malawi MOH created an institutional home for the program at the Malawi College of Medicine in 2009. In the future, CDC/SMDP and the Malawi MOH plan to conduct a nationwide training needs assessment, develop tailored training curricula, and continue to provide technical assistance to health districts.

Strategic Focus

The CDC/SMDP–Malawi MOH collaboration to date has focused on improving TB and HIV/AIDS work processes at hospitals and voluntary counseling and testing centers, and on improving the program planning and management skills of DHMTs. Objectives for the coming years will focus on building management and leadership skills at the district and national levels, with a special emphasis on mentoring and coaching.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center for Global Health

Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development
1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Mailstop E-93 • Atlanta, Georgia 30333, USA
www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/smdp • Tel: 404-639-3210 • Fax: 404-639-4617