

Furthering Equity in Health Systems

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Introduction

- Health equity is a key focus of the Global Fund’s 5-year strategy
- The question: how should the Global Fund adapt its investments in health systems so as to further health equity?

Objective of Internship

1. Understand better how to build just health systems
2. Gain exposure to the global health architecture and especially understand funder priorities and constraints

Work profile

- The Global Fund raises and allocates funds to country governments for addressing TB, HIV, and malaria + building health systems
- My role was to identify what conceptual and strategic shifts the Global Fund should make to improve health equity.

“Health equity”: absence of unfair, avoidable or remediable differences in health status among groups of people.

Reflection

Project 1: Literature scan to identify programs that improve health equity

- Identified 5 thematic areas within health systems strengthening that improve health equity.
- Contextualized findings to Global Fund country engagements, and recommended tools for systematically taking an equity lens in health systems programming.

5 areas for potential investment

-  Disaggregating data
-  Using an equity lens throughout the program
-  Community-based care
-  Providing an enabling environment
-  Health worker wellbeing

Community Health Worker programs: foundations and financing

What are the pillars of a successful CHW program? How have countries successfully financed CHW systems?

No.	Guideline	Strength of WHO recommendation	Relevant details from CHIPS program	Assessment program
1	Selection criteria for pre-service training			
1a	WHO suggests using the following criteria: • minimum educational level that is appropriate to the task(s) under consideration;	Conditional	• The minimum education level is defined as “Able to read and write in English and/or the local language,” which is necessary for the performance of tasks. Preference is given to the completion of primary school	Meets WHO

Projects 2+3: Desk research on Community Health Worker (CHW) programs for Nigeria team

- Synthesized themes across case studies and literature on sustainable financing for CHW programs
- Assessed how the CHIPS CHW program in Nigeria performed against the WHO guidelines on health policy and system support to optimize community health worker programmes

Project 4: Interviews of colleagues for internal blog

Wrote a human interest piece for the internal blog: collated 9 teammates’ reflections on what global health should do differently

Ask A Colleague: What Should Global Health Do Differently?

With so many happenings in the world of global health, we asked a few colleagues to tell us what they think global health should do differently. Find out what Christian Pfeleiderer, Diwa Samad, Erin Ferenchick, Hyeyoung Lim, Jamie Tonsing, Nicole Gorman, Obi Shunsuke Mabuchi had to say.

[READ ALL THE ENTRIES](#)



Looking ahead

I will continue to seek opportunities in global health. I am particularly interested in health systems strengthening, with a focus on community health systems.

Questions

- How can we reorient the global health ecosystem so that countries can set their own health agenda?
- How can we bring greater focus to quality of care, especially at the level of primary health care?

Conclusion

Many challenges remain in achieving health equity, including donor-recipient power dynamics, lack of data, absence of an enabling environment, and inadequate focus on the social determinants of health.

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