STUDENT VOICES FROM THE FIELD: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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Global Health Fellowship

- Provides an overview of the forces of globalization shaping health in our world, with particular emphasis on issues of innovation and access to health technologies.
- The implications of trade rules and intellectual property regimes on public health.
- The architecture of global health governance.
- Managing global health programs.

https://sanford.duke.edu/academics/geneva-program/global-health
• Undertake a review of TDR-supported research since 2010 with a view to mapping operational and implementation research. Clean the data, and with input from relevant TDR staff ensure the data is accurate.

• Utilizing TDR databases and interviews with TDR staff as appropriate.

• Become familiar with the strategies and current activities of TDR, the Global Fund and the Coalition on Operational Research on the Neglected Tropical Diseases through reading of the literature relevant to operational research, websites.
Starting with the recent review of Global Fund programmes and working under the guidance of TDR staff, drafting of multiple case studies that describe the role of operational research in the programme and the impact, positive or negative, on the delivery of HIV, TB or Malaria services.
After working extensively with TDR Staff, as well as each OR scientist, I was able to identify three strong case studies that exemplify the role The Global Fund plays in supporting successful operational research studies.

- China, TB
- Viet Nam, TB
- India, TB in collaboration with the International Union of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
• **Implementation (IR) and operational research (OR)** is used to identify bottlenecks in service delivery and improve the accessibility and quality of products and services. It has the potential to improve the outputs and outcomes of disease control programmes by assessing the feasibility of new interventions in specific settings and identifying obstacles to disease control in a particular country.

• **Implementation research** is currently described in the TDR IR toolkit as well as the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) as “the systematic approach to understanding and addressing barriers to effective and quality implementation of health interventions, strategies and policies” and “IR is demand-driven and the research questions are framed based on needs identified together with relevant stakeholders/implementers in the health system.”

• **Operational research** is carried out by using routinely collected data by programmes in order to provide ways of improving programme operations and thereby delivering more effective, efficient and equitable care.
HOW WAS IR/OR DEFINED?

• Given the multiple characteristics of Implementation/Operational research, this study relied exclusively on TDR staff *self interpretation* of projects understood to be either IR/OR.
• Data collection included:
  • Structured Operational Research and Training Initiatives (SORT-IT).
  • TDR Small Grant Schemes.
  • Research Capacity Strengthening & Knowledge Management Impact Fellowship Grants.
  • Intervention and Implementation Research Projects.
DISEASE DISTRIBUTION, 2013

- TB: 41%
- RCS: 18%
- NTD: 11%
- NCD: 6%
- Malaria: 8%
- MCH: 4%
- HIV/AIDS: 6%
- Congenital Rubella Syndrome: 1%
- Sexual Violence: 2%

N= 124 PIs
Countries=55
SGS: 13
RCS-KM: 26
SORT-IT: 85
DISEASE DISTRIBUTION, 2014

- TB 34%
- NTD 15%
- RCS 17%
- Malaria 11%
- Maternal Child Health 5%
- Hospital Outcomes 1%
- HIV/TB/NCD 1%
- HIV/AIDS 8%

N= 150 PIs
Countries=59
Disease=10
RCS-KM: 57
SGS: 15
SORT-IT: 78
DISEASE DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTRY, 2015-2016

N=142
Countries= 53
Disease =7
IIR: 78
SORT-IT: 32 (71 On-going)
RCS-KM: 14 (21 On-going)
SGS: 18 (34 On-going)
DISEASE DISTRIBUTION, 2015-2016

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DISCUSSION

- Consolidation among TDR Teams, single characteristic/definition of IR/OR.
  - Need for consistency TDR-wide, to avoid contradiction of IR Toolkit and Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).
  - Need to create a tool or checklist of characteristics to define OR/IR?
- How to define Topics/Diseases (example: NCDs)
  - Including mental health, Diabetes Mellitus, CVD, Cancer and Nutrition
- Grant Management System
  - Knowledge Management across grants management is weak – need to follow-up on consultancy to improve Grant management system.
  - Define what TDR directly funds and facilitates?
Strategy 2018-2023

• Identifying weak Knowledge Management system, increases difficulty in accessing IR/OR data.
• How do we assess current IR/OR definitions as TDR approaches new strategy?
• How will TDR fit into the SDG era, and how will we communicate our role?
• Exposure to global policy, and the powerful impact on international public health.
• Applying evidence-based research in the development and evaluation of public health interventions.
• Differing political views may hinder research and development towards improving universal health care.
• Work outside of your comfort zone.
• Building professional relationships that last!
THANK YOU!

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