

UNICEF's approaches to stakeholder engagement and use of research evidence to inform program and policy

Chewe Luo MD, PhD, FRCP
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Overview of Implementation Research and Delivery Science at UNICEF

- Catalytic to achievement of results for the Global UNICEF's strategic plan and global goals
- Knowledge units embedded in all programme sections - Health, HIV, Nutrition, Education and child protection (HQ, New York)
- Programme sections work closely with the Division of Data, Policy and Research
 - Mixed expertise on communication, implementation research, data analysis, GIS, digital health, policy and health systems
 - Work with national systems, academia and UN and external partners to build learning within programme design

Approach

- Attempts to have meaningful engagement of partners, policy makers and implementers on the ground to review programme data to define key gaps
- Allows alignment of implementation research activities to address identified programme gaps and funding priorities and cycles
 - Includes transitioning new innovations to scale
- Minimal overreliance on external consultants but rather promotes strengthening of local capacity
- Promotes development of communities of practice to assure continued sharing of lessons and learning

Integrating implementation research within the programme cycle



Modalities for engaging stakeholders

Global convening – UN Governance and global partnerships

Virtual learning platform and community of practice, high level face to face meetings, policy briefs, engaging key partners and donors



Regional convening – Partner coalitions and regional platforms

Sharing through face to face regional meetings, virtual platforms, regional frameworks; south to south to south exchange; joint stakeholder missions



Country stewardship – National Technical Working Groups/Coordination

Supporting and leveraging national coordination platforms, national consultations



Policy and practice changes resulting in improved programme performance

Engaging stakeholders on emerging knowledge / lessons learnt to accelerate achievement of eMTCT targets through a global virtual learning platform

- Launched in 2010 by in support of the Global Plan to eliminate new infections in children UNICEF and WHO
- A virtual learning collaborative to coordinate, synthesize and share best practices and new science with partners and country practitioners
- Manned by one dedicated staff
- Used various modalities – webinars featuring public health officials and researchers to present various cases and new knowledge
- Virtual case discussions with implementers to shape programming approaches
- This platform now expanded into other areas of work eg Global Fund supported implementers for prevention in adolescent girls and young women;

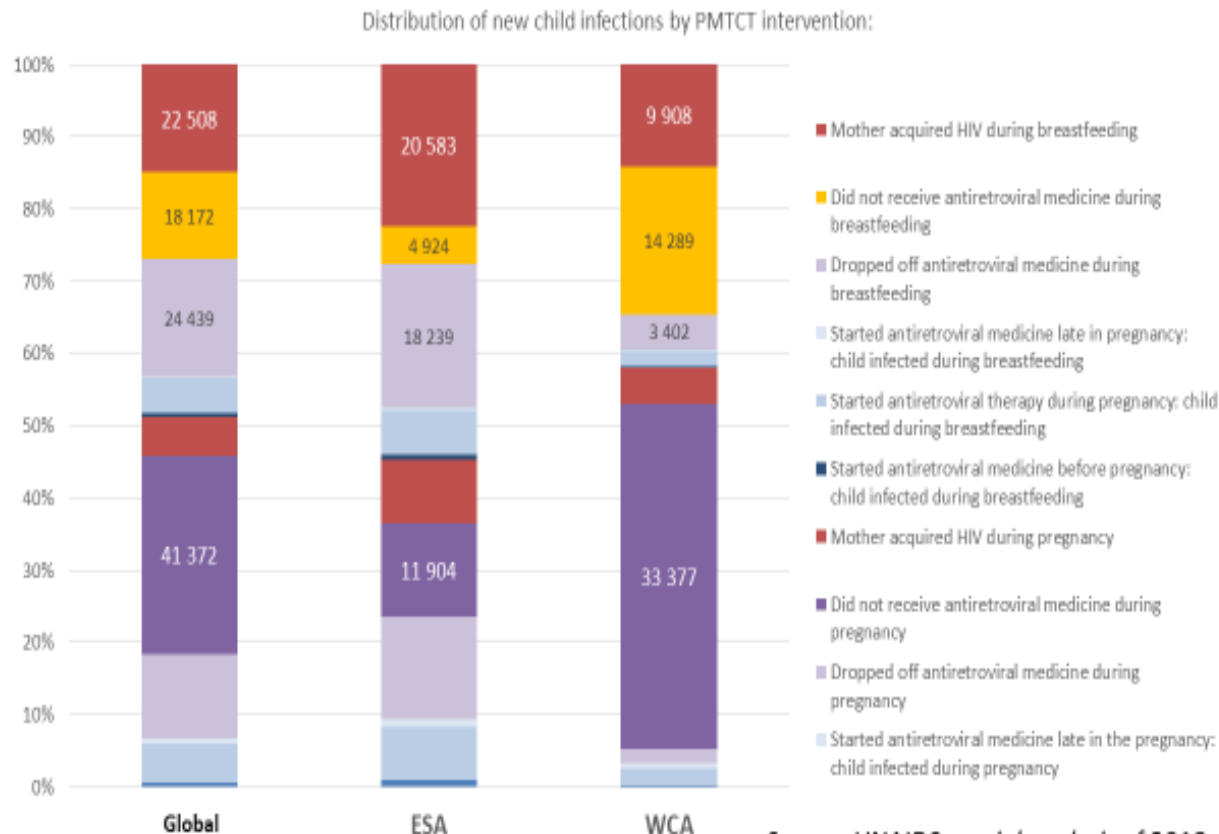
Translating knowledge into action through a virtual learning platform

- >50,000 website users
- 4,000+ community of practice (COP) members from > 100 countries
- 65% growth in COP from 2014-2018
- 80% of respondents rated webinars as good or very good and 13% rated the quality as excellent.
- 40% of website users are from the African region, and 40% of community of practice members are from low-middle income countries.
- 17% are from UN agencies, 12% are from NGOs, 4% are government representatives, 4% are from academic or research institutions.
- Most respondents (81%) find the resources shared useful, with the majority recommending the website, COP or both to colleagues (86%) in 2015.

Engaging stakeholders on optimizing programming for the last mile of eMTCT

Source of new infections among children newly infected ...how do we optimize investments towards elimination

- With UNAIDS, spectrum epidemic projection data files updated to determine sources of new child HIV infections
- Virtual regional reviews of data generated with country teams
- Discussions with the Global Fund to influence investment decisions based on the analytics
- Technical consultation on solutions held at CROI 2019
- Key programming options to be developed based on these discussions



Source: UNAIDS special analysis of 2018 estimates

Strengthening community facility linkages: UNICEF led initiative to optimize HIV treatment of pregnant women in 4 countries

- Launched as part of a grant provided by Sweden and Norway to UNICEF
- Cocreation phase with implementing partners to align investments
- Structured engagement of community actors
- Review of community best practices and development of a framework for the different activities
- Allowing different actors to self select and define implementation approach in response to various uptake and retention challenges
- Documented best practices shared locally and at national level to inform future investments

Programmatic actions:

Community Mentor Mothers

Community Client Tracing

Social Accountability

Male Involvement

Rationalization of Services

Thank You

