Institutional Capacity Building of Health Resource Partner Institutions (HRPI) in Africa

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2nd Congress on Health Systems Governance
20th to 21st March 2012
Kampala, Uganda
Present Overview

1. African Strategies for Health (ASH) Project
2. Capacity and Capacity building
3. Approaches to institutional capacity building in the health sector.
4. Institutional capacity building in the context of health sector governance
1. ASH Project is a five-year project funded by USAID’s Bureau 2011 – 2016.

2. Implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Khulisa Management Services (South Africa), Africa Population and Health Research Center (Nairobi) and the Institute of Health and Development (Senegal).

3. ASH works in close consultation and collaboration with a variety of African public sector, civil society, and private sector health development institutions e.g. AU, SADC, WAHO, ECSA-HC, ACHEST, RCQHC.

4. ASH’s mandate is to assist the Africa Bureau of USAID to work with African institutions, other development partners and partners within the USG to provide a strategic vision for guiding investments to further the health of Africans.
1. The project conducts reviews, assessments in order to identify issues impeding the realization of the vision and the reaching of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. Identification of successful practices - Working with African institutions, USAID missions and other partners working at the periphery to recognize, monitor and assess changes in practices related to health care delivery.

3. Disseminate best practices - Using both new (social media) and conventional (meetings and reports) avenues.

4. Promote African strategic and technical leadership - Strengthen African institutions and networks with a view to building the capacity of Africa Institutions to provide the technical assistance needed to improve the health of Africans.
Defining Capacity and capacity building

A scan of the literature reveals the following definitions:

• Capacity is “the ability to carry out stated objectives.”

• Capacity building is a process that improves the ability of a person, group, organization, or system to meet its objectives or to perform better.
 Levels at which capacity building occurs

- **Health System Level** - resources, actors, and institutions related to the financing, regulation, and provision of health actions.

- **Organization/Institution level** - strategic planning, financial management, information management, logistics systems, communication networks, or human resource development and management.

- **Health Personnel** - clinical skills in diagnosis, treatment, management practices, record-keeping and information use, supervision; money management, problem solving, or communications skills.

- **Individual or Community Level** health center management committees, lobbying and advocacy to decision-makers to demand better services.
Methodologies for capacity building

- Workshops
- Short term courses
- Mentoring
- Production of tools
- Internet
- mHealth
What are the most appropriate methods to “capacity building”? Is “capacity building” the right term? Engage. Talk with.
Reflections for the way forward

- Health sector governance is a critical issue for improving health services in Africa.
- Can we afford to wait for the ACHEST governance congress.
- With AU, ECSA and a parliamentarian among us in this congress, could we come up with a few concrete actions that we can take as follow-up beyond this congress.
Stronger health systems. Greater health impact.

Saving lives and improving the health of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people by closing the gap between knowledge and action in public health.