Initiative for Health Accountability and Transparency

Systems' Thinking for Making Health System WorkforAll

IHAT

Anchor

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It is our pleasure to welcome our followers to this edition of our E-Book Technical Series on Health System in Nigeria following successful roll out of our maiden edition on Transforming Primary Health Care for Universal Health Coverage, and very positive reception and feedback. We welcome you to this edition on Systems' Thinking for Making Health System Work for All.

Editorial Note

Initiative for Health Accountability and Transparency (IHAT) was founded to be a STRONG AND INFLUENTIAL VOICE in the Health System, Promoting Accountability, Better Health-Equity and an End to Social Exclusion.

While there are substantial efforts in the country to deliver essential healthcare services to those who need them, progress have been slow despite availability of cost health interventions that can prevent much of the burden of diseases.

Lack of sufficient progress is often due to varying degrees of health system failure which requires systems' solutions, but in many cases the responses are often temporary remedy which have been generally considered inadequate.

In furtherance of our mission, Initiative for Health Accountability and Transparency has chosen this chronicle on Systems Thinking for Making Health System Work for all to deepen the understanding of conceptual and practical foundations of health systems improvement initiatives.

Contents

The Contents of this edition of E-Book Technical Series include:

About Us

Initiative for Health Accountability and Transparency is a Health Non-Governmental Organization founded to promote accountability, health equity and mobilize towards ending social exclusion.

We are accredited by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) as Continuing Professional Development provider on Health Leadership, Management andGovernance.

For our course, visit http://learn.ihatresources.org

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Introduction

The need for robust health systems is more acute than ever and health system strengthening is rising on political agendas and becoming a priority of health reforms in many countries.

As countries commit to achieving Universal Health Coverage, it is imperative to focus on the vehicle for delivering quality health services, improvement in health outcomes, achieving Universal Health Coverage, and putting an end to health inequity and social exclusion.

While there are efforts globally to deliver cost-effective interventions to those who need them, progress have been slow in many developing countries despite availability of cost health interventions that can prevent much of the burden of diseases.

Basically, lack of sufficient progress is due to slow and ineffective coverage, widening health inequities and inadequate and underutilized cost-effective interventions. In many cases, the fundamental problem lies with the failure of the health systems and its ability to deliver interventions to those who need them.

Weaknesses and obstacles exist across the system, including overall stewardship management issues; critical supply-side issues such as human resources, infrastructure, and service provision; and demand side issues such as people's participation, knowledge and behavior

It is often a case of systems' failure which requires systems' solutions but in many health systems, the responses are often temporary remedy which have been generally considered inadequate.

Why it is Important to Understand the Health System

Strong health systems are fundamental if we are to improve health outcomes and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal of Universal Health Coverage and reducing maternal and child mortality, and combating HIV, malaria and other diseases.

Systems' thinking is crucial for any health system strengthening effort and has huge and untapped potential:

First, systems' thinking is important for understanding the complexity of the entirehealth system.

Second, systems' thinking is essential for applying the understanding to design and evaluate interventions can improve health and health equity.

Third, systems' thinking can open powerful pathways to identifying and resolving health system challenges, and as such

Forth, Systems' thinking works to reveal the underlying characteristics and relationships of systems

This edition of our E-Book Series offers a fresh and practical approach to strengthening health systems through "systems thinking". This powerful concept is used to deepen the understanding of the health system and stimulate fresh thinking among stewards of health systems, decode the complexity of a health system, and then applies the understanding to design better interventions to strengthen systems, increase coverage, and improve health.

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