Learning Question 1: What are the contributions of systems thinking approaches and tools to changes in health system outcomes? How do systems thinking approaches affect health system outcomes?

Implementation Research in Guinea

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Context

Policy and program implementation is crucial to improve health outcomes and ensure high-quality health services in Guinea. The Politique Nationale de la Santé Communautaire (PNSC) is a national health policy aimed at improving access to health services, particularly in rural areas. However, there is a need to better understand the enabling environment and potential barriers to the effective implementation of the PNSC, along with the reality of how key differentials and lack of training, and insufficient resources at the local level. These challenges point to issues with decentralization and the transfer of power, skills, convergence communes (municipalities), and threshold recommended by WHO, which is of particular concern for the provision of maternal and child health (MCH) services in the country, especially in rural areas.

Activity Impact

The study is being conducted across three types of communes: the first that were the pilot program of the PNSC, or the official strategies, policies, or laws. The second element is service delivery data collected from health centers and from District Health Information System II (DHIS2). The cross-sectional survey with officials (decision-makers) across national, regional, and local levels explores the official strategies, policies, or laws that inform health sector decentralization in Guinea. It involves data collection from health facility level data including immunization coverage, antenatal care, and other indicators. The study aims to determine the extent to which the PNSC is implemented and the impact on health outcomes in Guinea. The research division of the MoH worked closely with the Accelerator team to explore their health research priorities, and partners collaborated with the Accelerator along with other technical and financial partners supporting community health. They have been instrumental partners in the conception and design of this activity.

Facilitators

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Challenges

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Evidence

The research activity is a step in a process, so an essential part of the impact on the health system. The role of the DNSCMT, who oversees the design and implementation of the policy, is crucial. The study findings from the quantitative data collection, so we will have a change to explore these questions.

Lessons Learned

The study is being conducted across three types of communes: the first that were the pilot program of the PNSC, or the official strategies, policies, or laws. The second element is service delivery data collected from health centers and from District Health Information System II (DHIS2). The cross-sectional survey with officials (decision-makers) across national, regional, and local levels explores the official strategies, policies, or laws that inform health sector decentralization in Guinea. It involves data collection from health facility level data including immunization coverage, antenatal care, and other indicators. The study aims to determine the extent to which the PNSC is implemented and the impact on health outcomes in Guinea. The research division of the MoH worked closely with the Accelerator team to explore their health research priorities, and partners collaborated with the Accelerator along with other technical and financial partners supporting community health. They have been instrumental partners in the conception and design of this activity.