

Promoting Equity and Good Governance In COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment

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Presentation overview



Role of CSOs/communities in health systems: beyond WHO's building blocks



Rationale for integration of CSOs/communities in COVID-19 response: a focus on immunization



Roles that CSOs/communities can play in immunization



Evidence of positive contribution to immunization by CSOs/communities



Conclusions & implications



Role of CSOs/communities in health systems

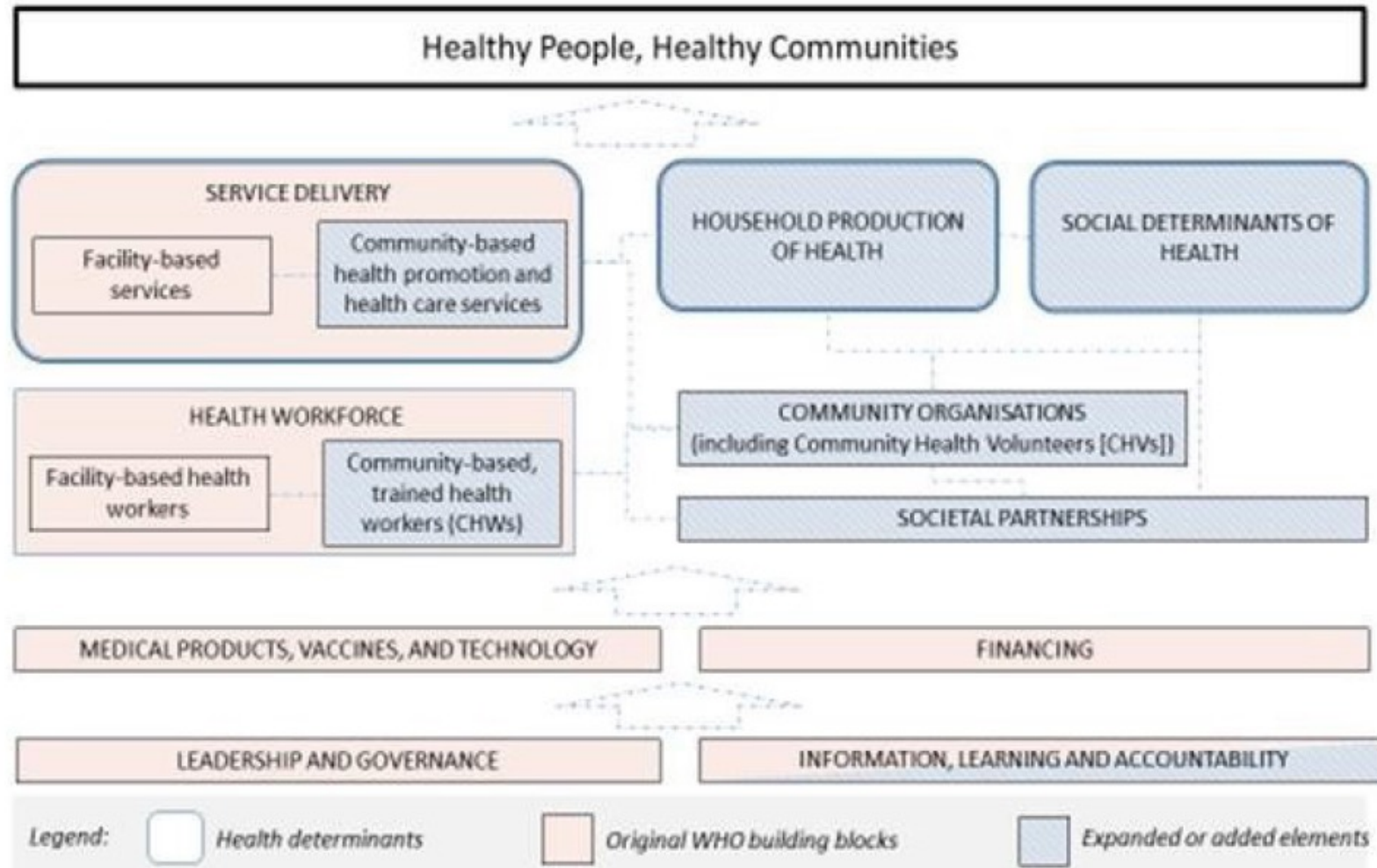
- **Six WHO Building Blocks** provide a useful framework for strengthening functions within the formal health sector but are lacking when it comes to services or actions that fall outside it.
- **Many preventive, preliminary screening and basic treatments are provided outside of formal facilities.** Activities at the community level also involve advocacy, education, governance, fundraising and other types of indirect support to the health system
- **Need for a framework that goes ‘beyond the building blocks’.**

A health system consists of all organizations, people and actions whose primary intent is to promote, restore or maintain health [...] A health system is therefore more than the pyramid of publicly owned facilities that deliver personal health services.

Everybody's Business: Strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes. WHO's Framework for Action, 2007



Role of CSOs/communities in health systems



Source: Sacks E, Morrow M, Story WT, et al. Beyond the building blocks: integrating community roles into health systems frameworks to achieve health for all. *BMJ Global Health* 2019

Rationale for integration of CSOs/communities in COVID-19 response: a focus on immunization



Value-based / ethical argument



Improving the effectiveness of the immunization efforts including by:

- ✓ **Helping to reach the hard to reach and supplement weak formal systems**
- ✓ **Increasing demand / fighting hesitancy**
- ✓ **Improving integration of equity / gender equality / human rights concerns**
- ✓ **Encouraging transparency, accountability and good governance**

Challenges:

Declining risk perception
Pandemic fatigue
Infodemic
Vaccine hesitancy
Widening inequalities
Low self-efficacy
Threat of stigma / discrimination
Weak health systems / supply chains
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Roles that CSOs/communities can play in immunization



Helping **address demand-related barriers** including vaccine hesitancy [through advocacy at local/community level]



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Helping **address demand-related barriers** including vaccine hesitancy [through advocacy at local/community level]

Influencing **resource mobilisation** and **advocating for equitable access**

Encouraging transparency, accountability and good governance [by **playing a watchdog** role towards governments, donors and other global health actors].



Roles that CSOs/communities can play in immunization

Implementing immunisation programmes complementing public service delivery, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings

Helping **address demand-related barriers** including vaccine hesitancy [through advocacy at local/community level]

Influencing **resource mobilisation** and **advocating for equitable access**

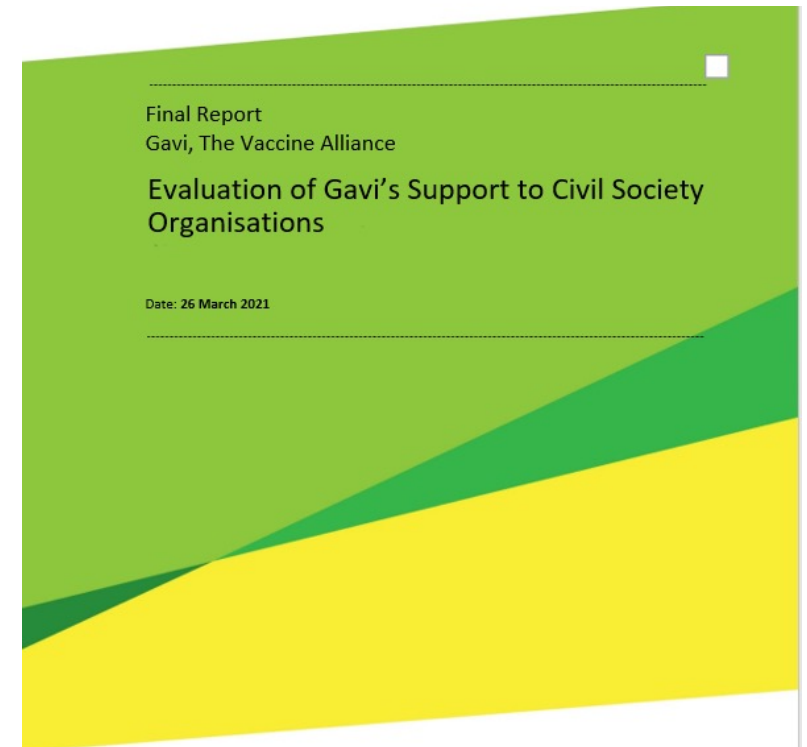
Encouraging transparency, accountability and good governance [by **playing a watchdog** role towards governments, donors and other global health actors].

Evidence of positive contribution by CSOs / communities



Evaluation findings related to Ghana and Mali:

- **CSO activities at the community level are thought to have contributed to strengthened demand for immunisation services.**
- Stakeholders noted the added value of engaging CSOs in terms of their **local knowledge of various religious and cultural barriers** and their **ability to convene large groups of people** at the community level to disseminate messaging to **overcome demand and access barriers to immunisation services.**
- **Stakeholders viewed these activities as absolutely necessary in order to improve immunisation coverage rates**, particularly given that they are being implemented in low-performing and hard-to-reach and/or unsafe areas.





Evidence of positive contribution by CSOs / communities

- **Insufficient evidence that can relate changes in immunization coverage to specific interventions that use community engagement approaches.**
- **However, interventions that are co-managed with communities are likely to be more successful**
- **Potential key role that communities should play in almost all aspects of the immunization chain**
- **There is no one-size-fits all.** Contextual factors should inform the design of community engagement approaches





Conclusions & implications

- **CSOs/communities have a crucial role to play** in COVID-19 vaccine deployment.
- Not only they can help **addressing vaccine hesitancy and generating increased demand**. They have also a crucial role to play in **maximizing the chances vaccine allocation is as equitable as possible, hard-to-reach populations are not left out**.
- This is not only a **moral imperative** but also **a way to maximise efficiency and effectiveness** of the COVID-19 vaccine campaign, in the face of pandemic fatigue, vaccine hesitancy/anti-vaccine movements and widening inequalities, especially in Lower and Middle Income Countries that already suffer from weak health systems / supply chains.
- While there is still a paucity of evidence of actual contribution of CSOs/communities to increasing immunisation coverage, there is **no doubt that involving them is paramount to increasing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of any immunisation campaigns**.
- **Programmes should at the same time meaningfully integrate CSOs/communities and generate evidence to help everyone learn from their experience.**

Resources consulted

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Thank you for listening



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