

Background: The NASG has proven to be an effective urban intervention against postpartum hemorrhage; however, there is lack of evidence supporting its effectiveness in rural areas. In order to understand barriers of effective NASG use, we interviewed health workers from 16 facilities with varying catchment levels within two Tanzanian districts, each from opposing regions.

Methods: Nested within the larger Empower II project, we reviewed all recorded cases of postpartum hemorrhage in two Tanzanian districts from November 20, 2014 to July 31, 2015 for signs of misdiagnosis, misuse, or nonuse of the NASG. This secondary data analysis utilized data from approximately 160 hemorrhage cases collected by the Ifakara Health Institute. The data was collected via mobile telephones and was stored in an online database for monitoring. During routine NASG supervision at the indicated facilities, we interviewed at least one available worker about their experience with NASG use and referral methods. Our interview questions focused on past experiences with the NASG, ease of use, reasons for misuse or non-use, NASG training, and NASG accessibility. Both written and verbal consent were obtained from participants, and in country IRB approval was secured. Our primary outcome was the direct identification of barriers to effective NASG use in rural clinic settings.

Findings: We visited a total of 16 facilities within the Geita and Ushetu districts and interviewed 19 participants. Participant interviews revealed dissatisfaction with the length of the NASG training, as well as an expressed desire for longer and more frequent training sessions. Workers at facilities with smaller catchment areas expressed a desire to have more frequent trainings at district hospitals, and expressed problems with NASG accessibility due to sub-optimal transportation methods. On-site cascade trainings also proved to be insufficient.

Interpretation: Clinicians in rural settings support NASG use; however, training programs should be expanded for regular usage to become more widespread. Transportation logistics must also be addressed to maintain accessibility in rural areas. Though language barriers were a potential study limitation, the use of translators allowed us to collect direct quotes to accurately capture the experiences of each participant.

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“CHN on the go”, a motivational support tool for frontline health workers in Ghana

P. Porekuu¹, J.M. Otieno²; ¹Innovations for MNCH, Concern Worldwide, Accra, Ghana, ²Innovations for MNCH Concern Worldwide U.S., New York, NY, USA

Program/Project Purpose: mHealth has become a major innovation for improving health care delivery, maternal, newborn and child Health (MNCH) and bridging the urban-rural gap in Ghana. While the use of mobile technology in rural areas has become a major innovation to improving health care delivery, little research has been done on the feasibility of utilizing mobile phones for improving front line health workers performance to provide better MNCH care for rural women.

Structure/Method/Design: Concern Worldwide’s Innovations for MNCH initiated the Care Community Hub (CCH) project in Ghana

to improve motivation among Community Health Nurses (CHNs) through a mobile technology application (app). Human-Centered design techniques were applied to better understand CHNs and to uncover innovative solutions designed for them. This process built the confidence of the CHNs/CHOs and motivated them to contribute more in shaping and building the application, solely owned by them.

Outcome & Evaluation: The six module “CHN on the Go” app was developed in partnership with Ghana Health Service (GHS) and Grameen Foundation as a means of reducing CHNs sense of professional isolation and improving CHN motivation. CCH is currently reaching over 300 CHNs and their supervisors in five districts with mobile phones fully loaded with the application to support their work. To date, GHS has adopted the e-learning platform and is planning to roll out a comprehensive training for CHNs on MNCH nationally. The districts plan to integrate the supervisory dashboard developed as a supportive monitoring tool reducing transportation challenges with limited resources. An M&E framework has been developed to fully manage the process of assessing and reporting program implementation towards achieving project outputs and outcomes.

Going Forward: CCH has the potential to radically improve MNCH outcomes as the app can be deployed to other cadres of health workers, including midwives and CHWs, across the country. Also, with mobile network coverage continually expanding and costs for airtime and mobile devices steadily decreasing, phones and tablets are playing an increasingly significant role as a health system support tool particularly from front-line health workers.

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A universal core curriculum for global health: report on content, teaching, and assessment recommendations from the Bellagio Global Health Education Initiative

M.J. Peluso¹, A. Kelleff², C. Margolis³, R. Rohrbough²; ¹Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, USA, ²Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, USA, ³Medical School for International Health, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel

Program/Project Purpose: Global health (GH) education remains limited by lack of integration into core medical curricula, uncertainty regarding methods of teaching and assessment, lack of guidance for students seeking expertise in GH, and bias favoring students and institutions from high-income countries. In June 2015, a diverse group representing high-, middle-, and low-income countries met to address these issues.

Structure/Method/Design: Nineteen individuals from 16 institutions and 10 countries, including clinical faculty, educators, administrators, and trainees with experience in GH education, participated in the four-day conference. The three foci of the meeting were the generation of core and specialist themes for GH education, teaching methods to implement these themes, and methodology for assessment. Topics were explored through presentations and discussions that used the nominal group technique. Participants voted on the group’s final recommendations.

Outcome & Evaluation: The meeting established the Bellagio GH Education Initiative. Specific emphasis was placed on the distinction between home and away sites as distinct locations for