Forming Productive and Sustainable Partnerships

GCRF Conference 2019 – Kent University – July 2019
WHO WE ARE

An International NGO, founded in Italy in 1950, working for the promotion and protection of health in Africa.

WHAT WE DO

Implementation of Health System Strengthening interventions in partnership with Local Governments.
WHERE WE WORK

8 Paesi/ Countries
23 Ospedali/ Hospitals
64 Distretti/ Districts

3 Scuole infermieri e ostetriche/ Nursing Schools
1 Università/ University
2,233 Operatori/ Providers

01 SIERRA LEONE
02 SUD SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN
03 ETIOPIA/ETHIOPIA
04 UGANDA
05 TANZANIA
06 ANGOLA
07 MOZAMBIQUE
08 REPUBBLICA CENTRAFRICANA/ CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

An integral part of our strategic plan, it complements our work on the ground, helping us delivering increasingly effective results. The discipline of applying advanced analytical methods to HELP MAKE BETTER DECISIONS.

WHY

• To study and get to know in depth the settings where we work;
• To adopt a critical approach to everything we do;
• To analyse what works and what does not work:
  - to improve programme outcomes in relation to medical care or prevention;
  - to assess the feasibility of new strategies or interventions in specific settings or populations;
• Identify evidence-based good practices;
• Share results and advocate for policy change;
• Be fully accountable to all our stakeholders.
WHAT WE DO – PRIORITY AREAS

- Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health
- Infectious and tropical diseases
- Nutrition
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Universal health coverage
OPERATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EMBEDDED IN THE PROJECTS

2016:
19 published researches

2017:
19 published researches
38 academic partners

2018
23 published researches
32 Academic Partners
https://doctorswithafrica.org/en/fieldresearch/
WHY CREATING A PARTNERSHIP

• CUAMM is not a research institute

• As field based NGO we can provide:
  o sites for data gathering
  o deep knowledge of the context in terms of culture, practices, traditions
  o Network – trust – based relations with the government, local authorities, local academia, local health staff and local community
CHALLENGES

• The level/standard of the research does not match the context
• The chosen indicators are not feasible for the local context
• Issues with data gathering and data standardization
• Timing and continuity
• Local permissions/approvals to conduct research
• Create sustainable partnership with local researchers; matching local expectation (salary, training etc..)
SOLUTIONS

• Study and knowing the local context in order to develop appropriate research
• Develop research questions which are generated from the field, from what is really happening
• Partner with NGOs which have multi-years, structured projects and continuous presence in the targeted countries
• Choose wisely the indicators and the data to be gathered communicating with those in the field
• Clear communication among the partners involved from the very beginning
EXAMPLE OF GOOD PRACTICES
What really happened in Pujehun District-Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak?

**Partnership:** Bruno Kessler Foundation, District Medical Office, Ministry of Health, Doctors with Africa CUAMM

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4660799/

**Aim:** assess in a high facility density rural context whether a health system organization with fewer delivery sites is feasible in terms of population access.

**Partnership:** Department of Physical Sciences, Earth and Environment, University of Siena (Italy), Regional and district medical office; Doctors with Africa CUAMM

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=How+Can+Childbirth+Care+for+the+Rural+Poor+Be+Improved%3F+A+Contribution+from+Spatial+Modelling+in+Rural+Tanzania
Thank you