

Global Evidence, Local Adaptation: Lessons learned from the Integrated Knowledge Translation strategy to enhance evidence-informed newborn and child health guidelines in Malawi

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Background

- The Global Evidence, Local Adaptation (GELA) project aims to maximize the impact of research on poverty-related diseases by increasing researchers and decision-makers' capacity to use global research to develop locally relevant guidelines for newborn and child health in Malawi, Nigeria and South Africa.
- To facilitate engagement between researchers and decision makers, GELA project implemented an Integrated Knowledge Translation (IKT) approach.
- IKT has the potential to enhance knowledge co-production and promote uptake of research evidence in health programs, policies and practices, however, in Low and Middle Income countries (LMICs) there are limited studies documenting lessons learned in the development and implementation of IKT.

Study Objectives

- To document and record experiences and lessons learned with developing and implementing an IKT strategy.
- To describe methods used in documenting experiences and lessons learned to enhance effective development and implementation of an IKT strategy.

Methods

Study design

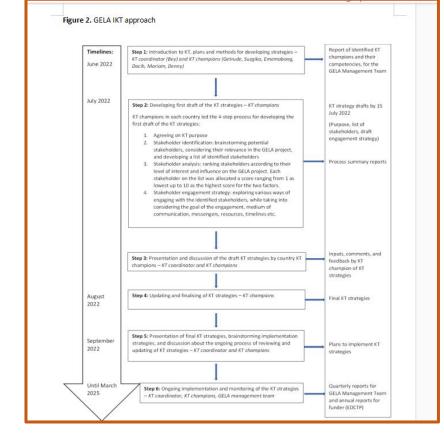
 This is a non-linear and iterative approach where two IKT champions from Malawi, and an overall GELA coordinator (representing Malawi, Nigeria and South Africa) formed the GELA IKT Working Group.

Data collection tools

- A questionnaire was used to collect data on experiences learned from developing an IKT strategy between April 2022 to March 2023.
- IKT champions participated in five 2-hour Working Group meetings held via Zoom. In the meeting they produced Working Group meeting minutes, presentation slides, process documents, including strategy templates and reflection notes which supported in documenting lessons learned.

Results

Figure 1. GELA IKT approach



- Figure 1 presents a flowchart of the IKT approach taken within GELA, involving the IKT working group, the broader country teams, and the GELA management team.
- The approach has enabled ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders to keep them informed and updated on the research activities.

Experiences learned across three countries (Malawi, Nigeria and South Africa)

- All IKT champions across the three countries have similar training in Evidence-Informed Decision-Making, but their training in IKT varied.
- IKT champions felt it was challenging to carry out a comprehensive mapping of stakeholders, determine stakeholders' level of interest and influence on GELA using the power-interest matrix, and identify realistic indicators for monitoring the country-specific strategies.

Figure 2. Malawi IKT implementation experiences and lessons learned

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1	STAKEHOLDERS NAMES AND ORGANISATIONS	Goal/Purpose of Engagement (Raise awareness/interest, Inform, clarify, effect policy/practice/publ ic action)		Medium (PolicyBrief, Manuscript, report, Podcast Video, Blogshot, Interview, etc)	Forum/Vehicle (Conference, Face-Face, Email, Radio, Twitter, Telephone etc)	Messenger (Self, Colleague, Media, intermediary/Brok er, Funder, Community member, etc)	Timing	Resources (Time, Human, Financial, tools)	Measuring uptake	Reaction	Goal Achieved Yes/No	Challenges Faced	Lessons/ Opportuniti
22):	linistry of Health: community Health Services nit; Mr Norman Lufesi esearch Department: Dr zinkambani amuzu Central Hospital: Dr Isandemi Kayuni UEEN Elizabeth Central ospital (QECH) Dr Kondwani awaza Izuzu Central Hospital comba Central Hospital	Goal 1: Introducing GELA Goal 2: Collaborating on the List of Steering Group Members Goal 3: Engage on GELA Launch meeting Goal 4: Inform them about the Survey on priority Setting Goal 5: Consult on the developed PICOs for the 3 priority topics	topics and 3 PICOS identified Advert for registration on Primer in systematic	PDF Project Summary GELA PowerPoint Presentation A list of the 3 priority topics PDF advert	Face to Face Whatsap Messages Emails Phone calls ZOOM Email, phone call, whatsapp messages Email	Country PI Dr Nyanyiwe Mbeye and GELA Communications Officer Gertrude Kunje Gertrude and Roselyn Gertude + SA coordination (Anke)	By 30th September 2022 Month end of March 2023 19 March 2023	Time to schedule the meeting Cost of internet bundles Cost of Phone calls Airtime and internet bundles Internet bundles to send emails	the project Data Collection Method: Note taking, whatsapp messages Indicator: Usefulness	Responded positively Provided us with a tentative list of Steering Group members agreed with the PICOs Eager to register for the primer	Yes	Emails were taking time to be responded to, We instead opted to make pohone call Took alot of time to respond Some GDG members had challenges to register	Learnt about challenges that Guideline development fact in Malawi for example inadeque funding has led the Clinical Practice Guidelines The mmbers are willing to support we need to inforthem in good tin Formed a Whats group for all SG members and Gi to share all lates information
3		Goal 2: Consulted on gaps in terms of Clinical Practice Guidelines in newborns and child health	recommendations that			Country PI :Dr Nyanyiwe Mbeye GELA Communications Officer: Gertrude Kunje		Time to schedule the meeting Cost of internet bundles Time to organize the zoom meeting	Indicator: Usefulness to the project and shared some gaps on child health guideline development	125		Delayed response Given that most doctors are very busy people, so responses through whatsapp messages were given indicating they will get back, which never happened Members registered Still a delayed response on the email,	We were reffere another stakeho to work with on

- Collaboration and networking: the use of already existing relationships with the Ministry of Health (MoH) leveraged in identification of new stakeholders and gain of support.
- Political will: a less obvious but crucial factor, we learnt that full support from the government ensure alignment of priorities and sense of ownership.
- Lack of training in IKT contributed to variations in implementing a comprehensive mapping of stakeholders

Conclusion

- Our experiences of adopting an IKT approach within GELA can help other researchers in similar African settings systematically plan for IKT, communication and dissemination of project outcomes.
- The flexible and evolving nature of IKT can help specialists and researchers tailor activities and processes according to stakeholder needs and preferences in their context.

Future research direction

There is need for further research on IKT indicators for monitoring and evaluating IKT since there is limited research on IKT in LMICs.

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