



MentorNet

Module on Implementation Science in Primary Health Care

Overview:

This module is intended to explore the rapidly emerging field of implementation science in global health. This module will cover the who, what, where, why, and how of implementation science using key introductory texts. SYPs and Mentors will reflect on the reading material as they relate their understanding to a case study on primary health care.

Objectives:

- 1) To gain an understanding of what implementation science is and how it differs from other global health research fields.
- 2) Upon conclusion of this module, mentees will be able to understand the strengths, weaknesses, and emerging approaches to implementation science in global health.
- 3) To explore applications of implementation science using primary health care as a platform.

Preparation: (Prior to meeting with your mentor/SYP)

Use the reading and case study material below to prepare for discussing the case study on Nigeria.

Reading Material:

- Edwards, N., & Barker, P. M. (2014). The importance of context in implementation research. *JAIDS Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 67, S157-S162. <https://doi.org/10.1097/QAI.0000000000000322>
- Peters, D. H., Tran, N. T., & Adam, T. (2013). *Implementation research in health: a practical guide*. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/resources/implementationresearchguide/en/>
- Theobald, S., Brandes, N., Gyapong, M., El-Saharty, S., Proctor, E., Diaz, T., ... & Bharal, S. (2018). Implementation research: new imperatives and opportunities in global health. *The Lancet*, 392(10160), 2214-2228. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)32205-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)32205-0/fulltext)

- Case Study from Bauchi, Nigeria through the Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA) Initiative International Development Research Centre (IDRC/CDRI), Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) and Global Affairs Canada:
 - a. Cockcroft, A., Omer, K., Gidado, Y., Baba, M. C., Aziz, A., Ansari, U., ... & Andersson, N. (2019). The impact of universal home visits with pregnant women and their spouses on maternal outcomes: A cluster randomised controlled trial in Bauchi State, Nigeria. *BMJ global health*, 4(1). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2018-001172>
 - b. Cockcroft, A., Omer, K., Gidado, Y., Gamawa, A. I., & Andersson, N. (2018). Impact of universal home visits on maternal and infant outcomes in Bauchi state, Nigeria: protocol of a cluster randomized controlled trial. *BMC health services research*, 18(1), 510. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-018-3319-z>

Further References:

- Alonge, O., Rodriguez, D.C., Brandes, N., Geng, E., Reveiz, L., & Peters, D.H. (2019). How is implementation research applied to advance health in low-income and middle-income countries? *BMJ Global Health*, 4(2), e001257. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2018-001257>
- Bhutta, Z. A., Das, J. K., Rizvi, A., Gaffey, M. F., Walker, N., Horton, S., ... & Maternal and Child Nutrition Study Group. (2013). Evidence-based interventions for improvement of maternal and child nutrition: what can be done and at what cost?. *The Lancet*, 382(9890), 452-477. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(13\)60996-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(13)60996-4)
- Hamilton, A.B. & Finley, E.P. (2019). Qualitative methods in implementation research: an introduction. *Psychiatry Research*, 280, 112516. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2019.112516>
- Pettigrew, L. M., De Maeseneer, J., Anderson, M. I. P., Essuman, A., Kidd, M. R., & Haines, A. (2015). Primary health care and the Sustainable Development Goals. *The Lancet*, 386(10009), 2119-2121. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)00949-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)00949-6)

Interesting Links:

- [Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research](#) for articles on primary care and implementation research.
- Department of Global Health, University of Washington ([interactive world map](#) of implementation science projects conducted by faculty at University of Washington)
- [Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa \(IMCHA\)](#) is a joint implementation research initiative through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC/CRDI), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and Global Affairs Canada

(2014 through 2021). Also see link for [overview of IMCHA projects](#) in sub-Saharan Africa.

Discussion Questions:

- i) Define implementation research in your own words. Compare what is similar and different between your responses.
- ii) Why is implementation research needed in global health? Do you think that implementation research adds value to global health? (elaborate on why or why not).
- iii) How is implementation research carried out? How does it differ from program evaluation/monitoring and evaluation?
- iv) How does implementation science account for the local health system(s) and the local sociocultural context? (for reference: the Edwards and Barker (2014) article discusses the importance of context for the Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV program).
- v) Looking at the case study from Bauchi Nigeria (two reference articles above that present details of the project), what were the questions that guided their research? Do you think these are good examples of implementation research questions? Further, reflect on how this project applied an implementation research approach.
- vi) How could the potential of implementation research be realized to address global health priorities?
- vii) Reflect on the meaning of sustainability in global health. How does implementation research relate to sustainability? (reference the article by Theobald et al., 2018).

Post Discussion Activity (Optional)

Reflecting on your work, past or present, what would be an interesting area to explore using an implementation research approach?

Module Developed as part of the MentorNet Initiative by Ga Eun Lee MScPH, and Linda Beyer MSc (Planning), DPhil Candidate.