



PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT TO ACHIEVE HEALTH RESULTS THROUGH ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH AND DELIVERY SCIENCE

October 2018

At the Third Health Systems Research Symposium in Cape Town, South Africa a coalition of partners including the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, World Bank, and U.S. Agency for International Development launched a statement on implementation research and delivery science. The statement spoke of the need for partnerships between policymakers, programme managers, and other practitioners, and researchers to advance a joint vision of saving lives and improving health. This collaboration aims to address the challenges of equitable implementation, sustainable programs and scale up through wider use of implementation research and delivery science embedded in real-time policy making, programme management, and health service practice. At the Cape Town meeting, we invited organizations and individuals to endorse the vision, be involved in the identification of challenges to health delivery, use data for decision making and collaborate to apply implementation research and delivery science to accelerate health impact in Low- and Middle-Income Country (LMIC) settings.

Since the 2014 release of the statement there has been growth in the number of course offerings at schools of public health and medicine, funding opportunities, as well as journals interested in publishing on the topic. We are pleased to report that in conjunction with the current Health Systems Global meeting *The Lancet* published online on October 8th a “Health Policy” article on implementation research that provides a call to action and case study examples of implementation research.

Working together, a nascent group of LMIC health leaders, the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Global Financing Facility, UNICEF, the US Agency for International Development, and the World Bank are collaborating to develop an open coalition to advance the Cape Town vision.

We are guided by

- Committed LMIC leaders working for equitable, accessible, sustainable and scaled delivery of evidence- informed interventions including better reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health and nutrition as part of country lead Universal Health Coverage agendas and strengthened Primary Health Care (PHC) systems.
- Recognition of the power of implementation research and delivery science to support LMIC's self-reliance in developing stronger health systems and improved health outcomes.
- Appreciation of the power of partnership including government, civil society, philanthropic, private sector, research, bilateral and multilateral organizations working together. We appreciate the necessity to support in-country capacity and leadership to use information within ongoing programs to improve health service delivery and to actively guide feasible real-world designs for novel research and innovation efforts.
- Understanding that efforts to advance implementation research and delivery science require practical guidance and opportunities to share experience on best practices and lessons learned including within our own organizations. We currently have some good examples of individual studies and efforts, but no mechanism to share learnings or apply these to country-led plans.

We are therefore committing and calling on others to contribute to building a community of practice focused on advancing the use of implementation research and delivery science. The nature of this effort is an informal coalition which will naturally evolve. Our initial commitment is to jointly develop an implementation research guide to support PHC and public health practitioners and decisionmakers in LMICs. The guide will draw upon existing resources, and provide a compilation of case studies and analyses of the elements of successful implementation research and delivery science efforts. We welcome contributions and engagement of others who are willing to commit both resources and time to achieve the vision of our efforts.

To join this effort or to learn more, please contact via email:

Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, Dr Abdul Ghaffar ghaffara@who.int; and Dr Kabir Sheikh ksheikh@who.int

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Dr Lola Adedokun ladedokun@DDCF.org

Global Financing Facility, Dr Robert Scherpbier rscherpbier@worldbank.org; and Dr Supriya Madhavan smadhavan1@worldbank.org

UNICEF, Prof. Stefan Peterson speterson@unicef.org; and Dr Debra Jackson djackson@unicef.org

USAID, Dr Neal Brandes nbrandes@usaid.gov

World Bank, Dr Mickey Chopra mchopra@worldbank.org; and Dr David Wilson dwilson@worldbank.org