**Conducting High Impact Research**

**Small Group Activities 1 & 2 – ANSWERS**

**Mapping Research Questions to the Policy/Program Process**

1. Question: Can injectable contraceptives be provided safely by community-based paramedical workers to increase the contraceptive prevalence in rural areas? *(program formulation, policy formulation)*

Hypothesis: The provision of injectable contraceptives by community-based paramedical workers is a safe and effective approach to increasing contraceptive prevalence in rural areas.

Program implication: Train community-based distributors (CBD) to counsel women on the importance of birth spacing and various family planning methods.

What else would you need to know to implement a positive study finding? Find out the following:

* Can paramedicals give injectables without adverse events?
* What criteria (such as age of the paramedical or status in the community) are associated with a paramedical who can give safe injections?
* What level of training do the CBDs need to give safe injections?
* Do CBDs need supervision support? If so, how much and from whom?
* How much did the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) increase?
* Are paramedical traits associated with higher uptake or rates of injectables?

**\*\* Note –** this question also can inform policy formulation needs.

1. Question: Is HIV mortality,incidence, or prevalence improving in countries with the largest Global Fund programs, compared to control countries? *(program evaluation)*

Hypothesis: The HIV epidemic will show greater improvement(or less worsening) in the focus countries than the controlcountries (after the onset of Global Fund activities).

Program implication: The Global Fund should continue to invest in HIV programs.

What else would you need to know to implement a positive study finding? Which programs – or combination of programs – was responsible for better outcomes? What was the cost of program implementation against deaths averted or cases of HIV prevented? Were there similarities among countries that contributed to a positive outcome, such as their MOH leadership, strong Country Coordinating Committee (CCC), dollar threshold?

1. Question: Is the completion rate for the recommended 4 ante-natal visits better in clinics in which there is a higher staff-to-client ratio? *(program monitoring)*

Hypothesis: Program retention is higher in clinics in which there are more staff.

Program implication: Hire more staff.

Program implication questions: What does the additional staff do that affects retention? More opportunities for counseling? More personal attention, more staff to follow up on no-show clients?

1. Question: Does marrying before age 15 result in higher levels of adolescent pregnancy and other negative health outcomes? *(advocacy & policy formulation)*

Hypothesis: Marriage before age 15 results in higher teen pregnancy rates (pregnancy before age 18) and other negative health outcomes.

Decision recommendation: Develop and enforce laws to protect female children from early marriage.

Additional questions to inform implementation of the study findings: Are girls enrolled in school? Are girls participating in girls’ activities/clubs? What is the family socioeconomic status? Are these activities/issues also related to pregnancy rates? How is the child marriage law enforced?

1. Question: Are OVC programs improving the well-being of OVC and their families in a cost-effective manner? *(program evaluation)*

Hypothesis: OVC programs are improving the well-being of OVC and their families in a cost-effective manner.

Decision recommendation: Implement additional OVC programs.

Additional questions to inform implementation of the study findings: Was there one programmatic approach (or a combination of approaches) that resulted in better outcomes? What was the impact of community support and involvement on outcomes? What did the program approaches cost?

1. Question: What is the status of health-care-seeking behavior and the causes of mortality among children under 5 years of age in Country X? *(advocacy & policy formulation)*

Hypothesis: The health status among children under 5 years of age needs to be improved.

Decision recommendation: Develop a program implementation policy for children under 5 years of age.

Additional questions to inform implementation of the study findings: How often do mothers take their children for health services in the first 6 months, 12 months, and 1 year after birth? What types of health providers do they visit? What are the common illnesses experienced by children under 5 during the first 6 months, 12 months, and 1 year?