



The USAID
Micronutrient and
Child Blindness Project



The A2Z Child Blindness Program

Regional Capacity Building Workshops

Program Design for Pediatric Eye Care Interventions

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Inspiration for the Workshops

Cycle VI Selection
Process



Reviewed Past
Cycles

- Good programs and ideas
- But not responsive to the terms of the RFP
- Unclear and incomplete proposals
- Carryover funds to program

Workshop Idea Takes Shape

Series of 3 Regional Workshops

- To contribute to one of USAID's priorities for the A2Z Child Blindness Program (achieving diversity across grantees) by enhancing proposal writing skills
- To familiarize more grassroots pediatric eye care organizations with the A2Z CBP
- To facilitate knowledge sharing and networking among attendees



Proposed Attendees

- Eye care and health organizations that had applied for, but were not awarded, CBP grants
- Staff from regional field-based grantees (past and present)
- Other local organizations that had demonstrated a dedication to the priorities of the program and had a need for capacity building



Partnership with IEF



- A2Z Partner and Grantee
- Technical experts
- Partnered for Design and Facilitation of the Workshops



Role of Hosting Organizations

- Selection
 - Recognized Regional Training Centers
 - Past or present CBP Grantees
 - Capacity to hold the workshop
- Overall Objectives for the Hosts
 - Build capacity as regional training centers
 - Contribute to enhancing reputation
- Ownership of the Workshop
 - Provided input on design, technical substance of presentations and local presenters



Evolution of the Workshops

Original intent - to focus on proposal writing skills

Evolved into a workshop on general program design (Logic Models, etc.)



Final Format of the Workshops

Collaboration between



Resulted in

- Presentations by participating organizations
- Pragmatic approach to problem solving
- Lots of group work
- Hosting organization presenting on technical areas
- Shortened program design section
- Showcase of regional efforts
- Publications/Evidence in Literature
- Section on funding strategies and working with donors



Objectives

1. To develop or enhance practical skills in designing effective and efficient programs for pediatric eye care interventions
2. To establish relationships with other pediatric eye care organizations operating in the region
3. To learn from participants' experience and develop suggestions to inform future programs

To identify promising organizations to invite to the partners meeting – expanding the network even further



Organization Presentations

Each organization gave a presentation including:



- Statement of the Problem
- Past approaches to addressing the problem
- Stakeholders & revenue
- Proposed plan

Group Work

Groups were organized by facilitators based on their presentations – manner varied by region

Africa – types of orgs

Asia – maturity and strength of orgs

Latin America – strength and type of programs

A participating organization was selected in each group - the following problem solving approach was then used in a group setting for that organization.

Problem Solving Approach

Step #1: Clearly articulate the problem

Key features to clear articulation:

- Numbers (numbers blind, numbers with congenital cataract, numbers needing spectacles, etc.)
- Identification of the primary group with the problem
- The problem (blindness, vision loss, poor quality of life, poor outcomes from services received, etc.)

Step #2: Clearly state the current situation and, most important, the gaps between the problem and the current situation

Key features to clear articulation:

- Take a population based approach (not just a hospital based approach)
- State (in numbers) current service delivery
- Highlight any inequity (boys : girls, place of residence)

Problem Solving Approach

Step #3: What evidence is there available that has either highlighted the problem or addressed the problem?

Using evidence:

- It shows you are aware of what others are doing/have done
- It helps you understand the problem better (and potentially, some solutions)
- It forces you to try to understand your own environment; is it the same or different from the settings of previous studies
- It can help you identify gaps in current evidence (which you might be able to address)

Problem Solving Approach

Step #4: What are the potential solutions to your problem?

Key features to potential solutions

- Remember that all problems are multi-dimensional in nature
- There is no single “magic bullet”
- Money alone will not solve the problem
- Many solutions require little money...just a different way of working
- Donors like to see that you have thought through the problem carefully
- Interventions are always open to interpretation; donors/supporters may like some interventions but not others (need to be ready to defend the approaches)
- For each of the potential solutions be ready to give advantages and disadvantages (always include cost)

Problem Solving Approach

Step #5: What activities you have chosen and why

Articulating your choices

- Again, use evidence to suggest why your choices are likely to be the best ones
- Be ready to provide the cost (and explain approaches to improve sustainability)



Group Work Presentations

A group member was nominated to present the group's results to the entire group.



Technical Presentations

- Finding and referring patients
- Service delivery
- Follow-up
- ROP (Latin America)

Coordinated by the host organization and IEF.



Other Presentations

Presentations were also given on:

- Various regional initiatives – African Ophthalmology Forum, ORBIS Bangladesh, etc.
- KIM, Sustainability, etc.



Program Design

- Strategic planning tools
- Program design tools
- Budgeting, scheduling, monitoring
- Key parts of a good proposal
- Reporting and management capacity
- Funding and partnering strategies
- Working with Donors

Africa Workshop

April 7-8, 2011

Hosted by KCCO

Moshi, Tanzania

- 25 attendees
- 13 organizations
- 11 countries



- DRC
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



(5 are at this meeting)

Asia Workshop

April 29-30, 2011

Hosted by Aravind
Madurai, India

- 21 attendees
- 10 organizations
- 4 countries

- Bangladesh
- India
- Indonesia
- Philippines



(2 are at this meeting)

Latin America Workshop

July 13-14, 2011

Hosted by the IRO

Trujillo, Peru

- 20 attendees
- 9 organizations
- 7 countries



- Bolivia
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Mexico
- Paraguay
- Peru
- United States



(3 are at this meeting, plus CSRA)

Comments/Evaluations

Very good evaluations



Most common comments (Africa and Asia):

- Not enough time for discussion
- More time for group work
- Should be 3 days instead of 2



Investments in People

Regional Capacity Building Workshops

- Investment in people and organizations
- Committed with a personal stake in their communities
- A chance to enhance program design skills
- Higher likelihood of receiving support for their programs, and ultimately the beneficiaries
- Opportunity to create a broader national (at times), regional and international network

The goal was to encourage the establishment of a larger, stronger network with more country-based people in it



Questions?

Thank you!



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