



SCAN ME

IMPROVING YAWS CASE DETECTION THROUGH AN ACTION RESEARCH APPROACH IN A RESOURCE CONSTRAINED SETTING OF YILO KROBO MUNICIPAL, GHANA

Background

Community health workers (CHWs) have the potential to improve the detection of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in poor resource settings. This study sought to improve workforce performance in yaws case detection by CHWs within the limited resource available to District Health Management Teams (DHMTs).

What did we do?

A management strengthening approach using a repeated Action Research approach (plan, act, observe and reflect - see below) was adopted by the Yilo Krobo Municipality. This enabled the DHMT to identify a prioritized problem facing the municipality through the use Problem Priority Matrix. A problem tree analysis was then used to identify the root cause of these identified problems. An action plan was developed with strategies which included:

- Intensified monitoring and support visits
- Integration of activities
- In-service trainings and regular meetings
- Improvement on case search activities using social media (WhatsApp)

These activities were implemented to address the identified problems and progress tracked.



Fig 1. The action research cycle

About PERFORM2Scale

PERFORM2Scale took a highly effective, management strengthening intervention and up-scaled it in Ghana, Malawi & Uganda. This four-year study showed that the intervention is effective in developing management competencies and can lead to sustainable improvements in health workforce performance and service delivery.



This project received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 733360

What did we conclude?

Community Health Workers have demonstrated the potential to address key health systems and human resource problems in a poor resource setting.

The approach offers promise in terms of strengthening both local and national health systems.

What we found



Fig 2. DHMT members

After 8 months of strategy implementation, CHWs detected 33 yaws cases (12 through passive case search and 21 through active case search) in 2018 compared to just 3 cases detected in 2017, representing a tenfold increase. Strategy implementation also resulted in 171 cases of all ulcers/lesions being detected in 2018. We also witnessed an improvement in the quality of data and documentation generated by the DHMT members.



Further information on PERFORM2Scale can be found here:

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Abstract number: 205

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