Week 8 Digest
Community Systems Strengthening

Integration of services
- ➢ Plan and implement interventions in accordance with the real assessment of needs of vulnerable populations, as defined by country priorities rather than global priorities.
- ➢ Integrate services and all systems of management for all three diseases, particularly for women, children, youth and adolescents in order to provide accessible, credible, quality assured government supported primary health care services at the community level that can be sustained in the longer term.
- ➢ Ensure women have access to family planning services and align strategies with achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, particularly gender equity.
- ➢ Mainstream and integrate procurement and logistic management systems to ensure improved management of supply and re-supply at the community level
- ➢ Ensure continued access to the right medicines, in the right quantities, when they are needed.
- ➢ Strengthen community networks, partnerships and co-ordination of activities and programmes to reduce duplication and take to scale what is proven to be effective.

Strengthen government and multi-sectorial support for community-based services
- ➢ Support the provision of integrated of services at the legislative, policy and practice level through the provision of a viable primary health care system.
- ➢ It is impossible to improve community based services without strengthening political will and commitment and improving multi-sectorial cooperation and national coordination to strengthen health systems and services, increase the efficiency of countries to use grants effectively and strengthen domestic funding allocations.
- ➢ Improve employment conditions and competencies of those working at the community level, particularly in isolated and challenging areas.
- ➢ Coordinate with others to support the government to build, fund and sustain a network of community based services linked to effective referral systems.
- ➢ Strengthen activities through more effective engagement with other sectors to support a coordinated approach to the provision of a continuum of prevention, management and care through community based services, such as legal and human rights organizations, social welfare, education, nutrition, peer to peer counselling, women's groups, community based health services and home-based care.
- ➢ Ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and promotion of gender equity are incorporated into strategies supported by the Global Fund.
- ➢ Do not support large pilot programmes, such as the introduction of Truvuda, unless ALL HIV positive people have access to and regularly receive anti-retroviral therapy. To begin providing expensive new medicines when we cannot

access at the community level the basic ART therapy is problematic and sending the wrong message to the communities.

Funding models and financial support
➢ Investing in vertical interventions can be detrimental and harmful to strengthening the health system and provision of services that meets the needs of communities. Such an example is establishing specific centres for Voluntary Testing and Counselling. Such centres require medical and nursing personnel and have been evaluated as having a low impact. These resources and services if integrated with the provision of other services, would enable the service to be more accessible to people and the personnel could cover a wider range of much needed services to the population.

➢ Many non-government organizations provide community-based services as government supported services are not available, particularly in remote areas. On-going activities are only maintained if funding continues. It is essential that the capacity of the government is strengthened to provide community based primary health care services with committed funding and competent human resources with services supported through effective systems of management and local organizations are funded and accountable for helping to build national capacity.

➢ Current policies and procedures for engagement with civil society organizations are quite strict and limiting. Be more inclusive and supportive of dialogue and engagement with community based organizations and civil society organizations, beyond cities to improve governance, policy and legal and improve the quality of community based programmes

➢ Focus on prevention and the education, social and economic empowerment of youth to change attitudes and enhance the protection of future generations.

Strengthen co-ordination and support for the provision of community based services
➢ Invest in community based services, support more effectively community based organizations, support groups and do not overly rely on volunteers to do the work that is needed.

➢ Strengthen the capacity of Global Fund representatives that support community based activities.

➢ Use innovative approaches to strengthen the competence and management of community based services, sharing of knoweldge and engagement with communities and civil society groups representing the interests of minority groups and vulnerable populations, such as MHealth, Telemedicine, E-forums.

➢ Foster relationships with community leaders and champions to protect and support the rights of individuals and improve access to services.

➢ Focus on advocacy, education, empowerment and prevention at the community level, particularly for youth, women, and children.

➢ Strengthen community participation and engagement throughout the process of inception, development, planning and interventions to ensure both ownership and accountability for outcomes.

- Build in accountability for effective community based project and programmes in collaboration with local communities and key affected populations so that they can monitor effectiveness and impact.
- Ensure accountability by defining indicators for meeting the needs of key populations within the community and focus programmes on making a meaningful contribution to achieving these indicators. Capture both qualitative and quantitative evidence to support community based interventions. Monitor and evaluation impact.