Building international partnerships online and in person: lessons from Indonesia and Nigeria

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Building international partnerships online and in person: lessons from Indonesia and Nigeria

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Building International Partnerships
Indonesia

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The genius is in the collaboration; the ideas, work & impact follow...
Building international partnerships:

*Implementation research, healthcare innovation*

- Purpose
- Context
- Partnership
  - Equity (by design) & *Building Trust* (crucial!)
  - Collaboration - diversity & inclusion *for* (rather than on) purpose & success
    - Communication (how/methods used/clarity/cultural awareness..)
- Capacity building
- Sustainability
- Overcoming challenges
About me

• UK-Indonesia clinical-academic-social science partnership since 2018

• Experience in different LMIC settings from 2003-clinician, research, education
  • Navigating health systems, different hierarchical teams, power structures, cultures and environments, bureaucracies, work visas/permissions..
  • Understanding the value of life can differ, what affects this

• Helps enable a mindset of flexibility, humility and confidence in your work & purpose
  Takes a lot of work to build trust & ‘be trusted.’
  Understand how I may be perceived & how/if to address this.
Accelerate the HIV response in populations with the greatest burden of HIV in Bali.
Using tailored focused medical and digital behavioural interventions

A targeted combination intervention approach for acute HIV infections to curb the explosive epidemic among high-risk populations in Indonesia
People power – collaboration, partnership
Before building a collaborative partnership

There should be a *purpose for it*

A *problem to manage* or a *question to understand*

A *process to enable change (or impact)*
Before building a collaborative partnership

Who are the stakeholders & decision-makers
Map out hierarchy
Who must be informed/involved?

Be clear on the data & how reliable it is. Know your epidemic!

Context & Health System Analysis
(politics, geographical diversity, disease morbidity/mortality, cultural/religious context, historical context/country relations)
Context

Archipelago of >17,000 islands, world’s largest island/4th most populous nation (~273.5 million)
Richly diverse and traditional, community driven culture, encompassing over 600 different ethnicities and languages.
HIV prevalence 0.4%; Papua & West Papua provinces HIV prevalence >2.3% (political unrest)

Health systems

Despite growing economy and advances towards universal health care - provision and equity of healthcare are highly varied across and within provinces and districts
Complicated bureaucracy/shortfalls in the health system directly contribute to the wide health inequality gaps
De-centralised healthcare systems - most healthcare provision is managed at district level
National management for certain areas e.g. drug procurement & diagnostics
Translation & Equity of healthcare implementation (policy/CMGs/resources/surveillance/education..)
Equity w/in provincial infrastructure, population health & investment
HIV IN INDONESIA

640,000 living with HIV

28% on treatment

90-90-90

66% - 28% -%
HIV IN INDONESIA

2019/2021 UNAIDS via IBBS

- 540,000 (510,000-570,000) PLWH (0.3% prevalence in adults aged 15-49) [640,000 PLWH 2018]
- 27,000 new HIV infections; 26,000 AIDS related deaths [46,000; 38,000 2018]
- PMTCT 15%; Early infant diagnosis 5%
- 3,200 new infections & 2,400 deaths in children; orphaned children due to AIDS 260,000
- Key populations most greatly affected
- Rapid increase in HIV new infections specifically in MSM
- 17.9% MSM nationally (c/o 25.8% 2018 8.5% in 2011)
- 36% in MSM in Denpasar Denpasar & Jakarta ~ 1 in 3 MSM infected with HIV
HIV IN INDONESIA

2019/2021 (impact of COVID-19 + data accuracy)

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Denpasar & Jakarta ~ 1 in 3 MSM infected with HIV
HIV/AIDS death rates by age, Western Europe

Death rates from HIV/AIDS measured per 100,000 individuals across various age categories. Also shown is the total death rate across all ages (not age-standardized) and the age-standardized death rate. Age-standardization assumes a constant population age & structure to allow for comparisons between countries and with time without the effects of a changing age distribution within a population (e.g. aging).

Source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (GBD)
Number of HIV/AIDS deaths and averted due to antiretroviral therapy (ART), Western & Central Europe and North America

Annual number of deaths from HIV/AIDS and the estimated number which have been averted as a result of antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Source: UNAIDS
Pharma

Drug procurement strategies
MoH priority
Limitations re. drug innovation
Internal generic manufacturing
Health system regulations

Number of HIV/AIDS deaths and averted due to antiretroviral therapy (ART), Indonesia
Annual number of deaths from HIV/AIDS and the estimated number which have been averted as a result of antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Source: UNAIDS  CC BY
Trends in HIV prevalence among MSM (high prevalence districts)
IBBS Group A
### Context-specific challenges - Indonesia

#### Institution/Health system

- Lack of Domestic priority/Programmes funded via Global Fund
- NGO services vs community/integrated HIV care
  - access viral load/VRT, service infrastructure
- No priority for sexual health/sex education
- Data reporting systems to track patients (data safety)
- ART procurement/ltd ART options

#### Punitive Laws

- Institutional stigma (political environment)
- Country view on relevance of HIV epidemic c/o to other causes of death & disease?

#### Social exclusion/wider determinants/risk

- Internal migration among KPs – geographical diverse country
- Wide bridging of risk: KP - ‘lower risk’ communities
  - Of 46,357 new HIV infections in 2017, 33% among women from non-KP
- Low rates of condom use among FSWs & male clients

#### ↑ rates MSM married to women (heterogeneity)

#### ↓ rates of literacy among KPs (FSWs, trans women)

- MSM ↑use of online platforms to have sex due to fear
- High rates CM use in the general population
- Poor mental health/low self-esteem, personalised shame among KPs-poor mental health support
Indonesia passes criminal code banning sex outside marriage

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Criminalized sex works/closed brothels
Narcotics
Anti-pornography (limits sex education
Law/Internet censorship

Criminalizing Sex before marriage (established Dec 2022)

Rehabilitation law (draft 2020)

Criminalizing same-sex relationships
Discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV, 2016

Share of total population who hold discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV. This is measured as those who answer "no" to the question: "Would you buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper or vendor if you knew that this person had HIV?". This share is based only on those who have previously heard of HIV.

Source: UNAIDS

CC BY
Indonesia passes criminal code banning sex outside marriage

**HIV prevalence among MSM in the last decade**

Digital advancements & (secretive) access to sex, advancing sexual networks (& acute infections)

Global trends for recreational drug use that facilitate risk vs Barriers to effective public health

- Increasing rhetoric to victimise, shame and criminalize same-sex relationships
- Prohibitive laws and regulations
- Poor sexual health education/no funding for sexual health
Tipping point – how to reverse it?
Dramatic point for an ‘epidemic’ when everything can change all at once (HIV prev. in MSM 12% - 35% over 10 years)

- Infectious disease dynamics
- Socio-behavioural context
  - Networks/
  - Sociosexual connections/
  - Bridging
- Modern dynamic influencers
  - (rec drugs/digital world)
- Politics / environmental context
- Health system/priority health issue
- Diagnosing AIIs algorithm, Rapid Tx, PrEP
  - Reduce community V/L
- Behavioural tool
  - Outreach campaigns
  - Sticky messaging
- Health system analysis
  - partnerships & collaboration
Implement Impactful strategies

Testing ↑ numbers of HIV + STIs
Algorithm & POC/pooled V/L to diagnose (& treat)
more acute HIV infections

Test & Treat
Tx-as-prevention

Digital resources & education for high risk MSM
By public engagement
Implement Impactful strategies

- Tailored
- Iterative
- Engaging
- Digitally savvy
- Culturally appropriate

Involves stakeholders

PrEP

Digital resources & education for high risk MSM

By public engagement

Test & Treat

Tx-as-prevention

Testing ↑ numbers of HIV + STIs

Algorithm & POC V/L to diagnose (& treat) more acute HIV infections

Implement Impactful strategies

INTERACT

Tailored

Engaging

Digitally savvy

Culturally appropriate

Involves stakeholders
UTAMA Social science study recruitment (physical outreach & social media campaign) and workshops

www.helpbeathiv.org
Interactive web survey

Research training/GCP
Data handling and protection
Focus group workshops
Understand what impacts HIV transmission dynamics and hinders (& promotes) the provision of public health in a given setting.
Equity (& building trust)

Balance of Power & partnership dynamic
Institutional/Research Reputation
Sustainability

Funding (financial due diligence)
Reputational elevation/value in equal balance? (publication/career)
Responsibility post publication

Bureaucracy/Permits
Historical context (Exploitation)
Culture/Perceptions of global north policies
Infrastructure/Systems to enable the application in real world
Communication/Cultural intelligence (& building trust)

Global North

- **Low context** comm. (explicit)
- **Loose/Tight** mindsets/cultures
- **Self-serving bias** (high levels in Western academia/bias w/in ‘stories’ we tell ourselves)

Traditional settings

- **High context** comm. (gesture/status)
- **Swift trust vs respect/honour**
- **Listening** >important c/o to speaking to influence esp. re cultures that have low trust
Communication/Cultural intelligence (& building trust)

Language translation can be complex depending on the language
Requires an investment

Related to high and low context (loose and tight) environments

Some languages do not have ‘words’ for things we do; how the user understands the translated content may not be how it’s intended.

Do translators have the same investment in the research as we do? Do we check this (PPI)
Creativity comes from the collision of apparently unrelated frames of reference.

Listening to & understanding a problem/question from someone we perceive differently can enable a far more effective solution.
Creativity comes from the collision of apparently unrelated frames of reference. Listening to & understanding a problem/question from someone we perceive differently can enable a far more effective solution.

Why Diversity?

Culture/ethnicity/profession/community/KP/ neuro-diverse/gender/age...

Diversity spearheads success & equity in scientific/health innovation for organizations, communities/populations & yourself.

Disciplines & talent involved

Clinical (clinical teams BP, GL, 56DS, OUCRU)

Academic (epidemiology/public health/ID)

Social science & Psychology (stigma/mental health/policy)

Community (clinic peer workers, local/national community groups/social media influencers & engagers)

Media & musicians (Indonesia & London)

MoH/UNAIDS/national WHO/GF recipients
Sustainability

• When funding ends, resources change, political environment shifts
• When you/people in your team move around, have high workloads or leave

• What are the sustainable solutions?
  • Benefitting the local community beyond the lifespan of the project
  • Local partnerships
  • Building the capacity of local healthcare providers with MoH agreement. Integrating in current health systems (where possible...)
Overcoming challenges

• Evolve the purpose, partnership & process as the world/environment changes – e.g. politics, health systems, global scientific progress, pandemics...

• Desired outcomes may take time…. Often it takes a bit of luck/opportunity/change in key stakeholders to drive impact

• A number of big challenges, main ones...
  • Funding (funding agreement not honoured)
  • Research permits
  • COVID19 – a need to pivot, act fast, re-build (regional comms on ART use/halt of ART procurement)
  • Public engagement & anti-pornography law
  • Law & Policy (greater pushback on public health/increasing stigma in society)
Pandemic - leverage via multiple comms to National/global stakeholders to enable ART & DTG via GF

Donated to UNAIDS Indonesia

Worlds AIDS Day – original song/collaboration
Empowering communities to end AIDS in Indonesia through tailored medical and digital interventions

We will launch early-mid 2020
Thank you!

Any Questions?