

The Health Policy and Systems Research Agenda on Gender and Intersectionality: Where are the gaps? What can we learn?

April 25-26 2018, Dubai

BACKGROUND

The Alliance for health policy and systems research supports generation and use of policy relevant health systems knowledge. To ensure that policies and programmes are not gender-blind and address inequities, the research that informs them must take on a gender and intersectionality lens. While there is a growing body of evidence on gender and intersectionality, the applications to health systems strengthening remain limited and could benefit from testing innovative approaches and generating further knowledge to inform policy. The goal of the Gender and Intersectionality research portfolio will be to take a participatory approach – through engagement with civil society – to the generation and use of knowledge in improving considerations of gender and intersectionality in health systems.

OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives include:

- Addressing evidence gaps in gender and intersectionality in health systems
- Connecting civil society, policy makers and researchers for strengthened advocacy
- Enhancing evidence use in gender mainstreaming

LONGTERM PLANS

Over the next three years, the process of moving forward the research agenda for gender transformative health systems will be as follows:

1. An April 2018 convening of a group of experts working across a range of issues affected by gender and intersectionality to: help set thematic priorities; engage in identifying and promoting range of HPSR methods for gender and intersectionality analysis; share relevant experiences in generating and disseminating knowledge on gender and intersectionality in health systems; and inform criteria for the emanating call for proposals.
2. A research call for LMIC institutions will be launched. Bidders will be asked to partner with local civil society organizations engaged in gender advocacy in order to be eligible. Research teams will be, as per the Alliance's usual terms, at least 50% female. A range of HPSR methods will be eligible as per the criteria identified at the agenda-setting meeting.
3. Partnerships developed between researchers, policy makers and civil society partners will be coordinated by a global advocacy group and will contribute to building a learning network at local, regional and global levels. Creative approaches to participatory and embedded HPSR for gender transformative health systems will be tested.

AGENDA DAY 1

Time	Focus	Type of Activity
8.30 – 9.00 am	<i>Coffee and arrivals</i>	
9.00 – 9.15 am	Introductions	
9.15 – 10.00 am	Background and rationale for gender portfolio Session objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review agenda and objectives of meeting - Overview of the Alliance - Framing of gender and intersectionality portfolio and the added value of HPSR lens 	Presentation by the Alliance
10.00 – 10.45 am	Defining gender and intersectionality	Presentation and discussion
10.45 – 11.00 am	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 – 11.30 am	Review of pre-meeting survey Session objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review list and rankings of gender and intersectionality themes by participants - Eliminate themes that have been identified as low priority - Allow participants time to make the case for middle priority themes 	Round-table discussion of results
11.30 – 12.30 pm	State of the evidence Session objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the state of the evidence based on reviews in gender equality and NCDs, Health Workforce, and UHC - Identify gaps where HPSR would offer fit-for-purpose approaches for investigation 	Presentations by Gender, Equity and Rights Department of WHO, Gender Equity Hub, and Women in Global Health
12.30 – 1.30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
1.30 – 2.45 pm	Show and Tell Session objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing research findings and/or successes and challenges in conducting gender and intersectionality work - Providing case examples to draw upon in working sessions - Discussion and finalization of 3 selected themes 	Rapid fire presentations of various elements of research activities in gender and intersectionality with Q&A period
2.45 – 3.45 pm	Small Group Session I Session objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define boundaries for each of the assigned themes 	Moderated group work
3.45 – 4.00 pm	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
4.00 – 4.45 pm	Small Group Session II Session objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brainstorm research questions under each of the themes and potential approaches to investigation 	Moderated group work
4.45 – 5.00 pm	Summary and wrap-up of Day 1	

AGENDA DAY 2

Time	Focus	Type of Activity
8.30 – 9.00 am	<i>Coffee and arrivals</i>	
9.00 – 9.15 am	Recap of day 1 and objectives of day 2	
9.15 – 10.00 am	Presentation of work done in group sessions	15 minutes of discussion per theme
10.00 – 10.45 am	Small Group Session III Session objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify HPSR methodologies and approaches that would suit each theme - Identify criteria to be evaluated in call for proposals 	Moderated group work
10.45 – 11.00 am	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 – 12.30 pm	Group discussion on HPSR methodologies and approaches Session objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform technical criteria for call for proposals - Discuss any remaining misalignment issues coming out of small group sessions 	Large group discussion
12.30 – 1.30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>	
1.30 – 3.00 pm	Civil Society Engagement Session objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define what is meant by civil society and the process to identify who should be engaged - Define how and why civil society will be engaged, and their specific roles in the advocacy network and beyond - Develop ways forward to develop an action plan for engaging local civil society - Identify potential aims and targets of global network - Discuss criteria for the type of civil society roles expected in call for proposals 	Presentation by Women in Global Health and Round-table discussion
3.00 – 3.45 pm	Open Session on policy influence	
3.45 – 4.00 pm	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
4.00 – 4.45 pm	Way forward Session objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss engagement of policy makers and civil society in next stages - Set expectations from research activities - Discuss policy implications - Identify reviewers & peer mentors for research teams 	Large group discussion
4.45 – 5.00 pm	Summary and wrap-up of Day 2	