Creating a movement to improve technical assistance to countries

R4D brown bag on the coaching approach

April 16, 2020
Achieving lasting improvements in population health outcomes requires strong, self-sustaining health systems.

But...systems change does not happen from getting one policy or technical approach right. It requires continual, context appropriate processes that take into account complex political, economic, and institutional landscapes.

Practitioners want support to tackle these tough issues. However, they have shared the following thoughts on how technical assistance can better meet their needs...
What are the key features of the coaching approach?

- The approach draws mainly on country and regional experts, supported by global coaches and mentors as needed, who we also encourage to follow the principles of this approach.

- Technical support is coordinated and embedded in the country-led process and is grounded in learning-by-doing.

- Coaches support country partners to strengthen these processes and make them more inclusive, more transparent and more grounded in evidence.
Together, the African Collaborative for Health Financing Solutions, the Strategic Purchasing Africa Resource Center and the Accelerator are testing a country engagement approach that engages “coaches” and “mentors” who work alongside and support country stakeholders through processes to identify root causes of health system challenges, interpret and apply locally generated and global evidence, develop and implement solutions that are technically valid, feasible, and have the buy-in of stakeholders.

Click here to learn more about Kenya’s experience: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWGE-nL7IqE
Coaching approach in action: Liberia’s experience

“GINGONG’S WORK AS A COACH IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT MAKES THE ACCELERATOR APPROACH DIFFERENT AND VALUABLE. THE CONNECTION HE HAS MADE WITH THE MOH IS TREMENDOUS, AND THEY CLEARLY VALUE HIS ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS.”

JESSICA HEALEY, DIRECTOR, USAID/LIBERIA HEALTH OFFICE

ACS, Accelerator and SPARC have been co-developing resources and tools on the coaching approach along 3 pillars:

- Orientation modules
- Global database of experts
- Collaborative learning on the coaching approach (work in progress)
Orientation modules

Building capacity for sustainable health systems change

Introduction to the coaching orientation modules

Get Started

Linking the coaching approach to R4D’s Pathways to Impact

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**We support change agents who are building strong self-sustaining systems for healthy, educated people**

**Pathway 1: Country Change Processes**
- Help adapting proven solutions to new contexts, and building buy-in for them
- Stronger institutions capable of tackling system challenges and learning

**Pathway 2: Evidence**
- Access to the best evidence and innovative ideas from around the world
- More “how-to” implementation knowledge
- Knowledge in formats they can easily use

**Pathway 3: Networks and Platforms**
- To connect and learn from peers around the world
- To rely on expertise from people and institutions in their own countries

**Pathway 4: Global Influence**
- Financing and support mechanisms that enable country leadership
- Global development actors that coordinate and complement each other

**We support change agents to translate knowledge, adapt innovations, and build institutions and processes to solve system challenges**

**We build global knowledge about the “how-to” of systems change in countries, with emphasis on getting that knowledge into practice**

**We develop networks and platforms that connect individuals and institutions to share, amplify and put into practice evidence on what works**

**We promote learning among international partners to better support country-led systems change**
Applications of the coaching approach for COVID-19 response efforts and beyond
What’s next?

Covid-19: Adapting the coaching approach for virtual coaching

- Requests for tailored solutions for specific country needs that will require virtual coaching in place of in-person technical assistance e.g. Ghana
- 3-step development process:
  1. Crowd source best practices
  2. Co-creation
  3. Module development

Crowdsourcing survey link
What’s next?

Adapting the coaching approach beyond health

- Similar needs across development sector e.g. health, nutrition, education etc.
- Same principles apply regardless of the sector
- Key questions:
  - What are the specific needs for each sector?
  - How can we best adapt and adopt the coaching approach?
This has been a collaborative effort.....

And the FORCE....a group of like-minded, African, health systems and health financing experts, with a shared interest in supporting us develop the coaching approach
Thank You!