

Meaningful Community Involvement In The Three I's – Why Not Now?



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Why not now?

- Meaningful community involvement is essential to generate momentum for the scale-up of the Three I's
- Community involvement should not be viewed as an add-on to the core content of programmes, but as the foundation and framework
- Communities have a role to play as designers, implementers and monitors of programmes – not as the exception, but as the rule

Why Not Now?

Health systems do not have the capacity to initiate and sustain comprehensive scale-up of the three I's.

We need to develop concrete and sustainable strategies for scale-up that make use of all the resources that we have.

“without fundamental change, the perspectives for expanding access to ART and improving quality of care are bleak. And the cost of inaction is clear: hundreds of thousands of people...will die unnecessarily because there will be no personnel to provide the life-saving care and treatment they need.”

- MSF, *Help Wanted* (2007)

Why Not Now?

Health is a shared responsibility, and this shared responsibility is a right.

- Patient “ownership” of health improves treatment outcomes
- Paternalistic approach to health undermines success of interventions
- Community health interventions that do not involve broader community empowerment are futile.

Why Not Now?

Approaches that are not patient-centred will fail.

- Community involvement helps to design approaches that meet the patient's needs
- Barriers to treatment often fall outside the technical clinical realm
- Programmes need to be fitted to the realities of patients and their communities, not the other way around

Why not now?

Communities have the capacity to design, implement and monitor programmes

- Capacity building enables communities to assume a more active role in the health response
- Numerous examples are available of community members who are indispensable actors in programme implementation
- Community programme work must be formally recognised and compensated

Why not now?

Meaningful community involvement ensures accountability

- Mismanagement of TB/HIV must be identified and challenged at the source
- Communities have the right to a platform to voice concerns, suggestions and challenges

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