

Innovative strategies for community participation in improving maternal health service provision in rural Eastern Cape health facilities, South Africa

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Background

- The Eastern Cape Province is acknowledged to have a good policy on community participation – established functioning clinic and community health center committees and hospital boards as well as CHWs programme
- However, despite a great policy in place, sound implementation is limited to a few health facilities

Research Objective

This paper describes some of the innovative strategies used by selected health facilities to enhance community participation in maternal health programmes in rural Eastern Cape.

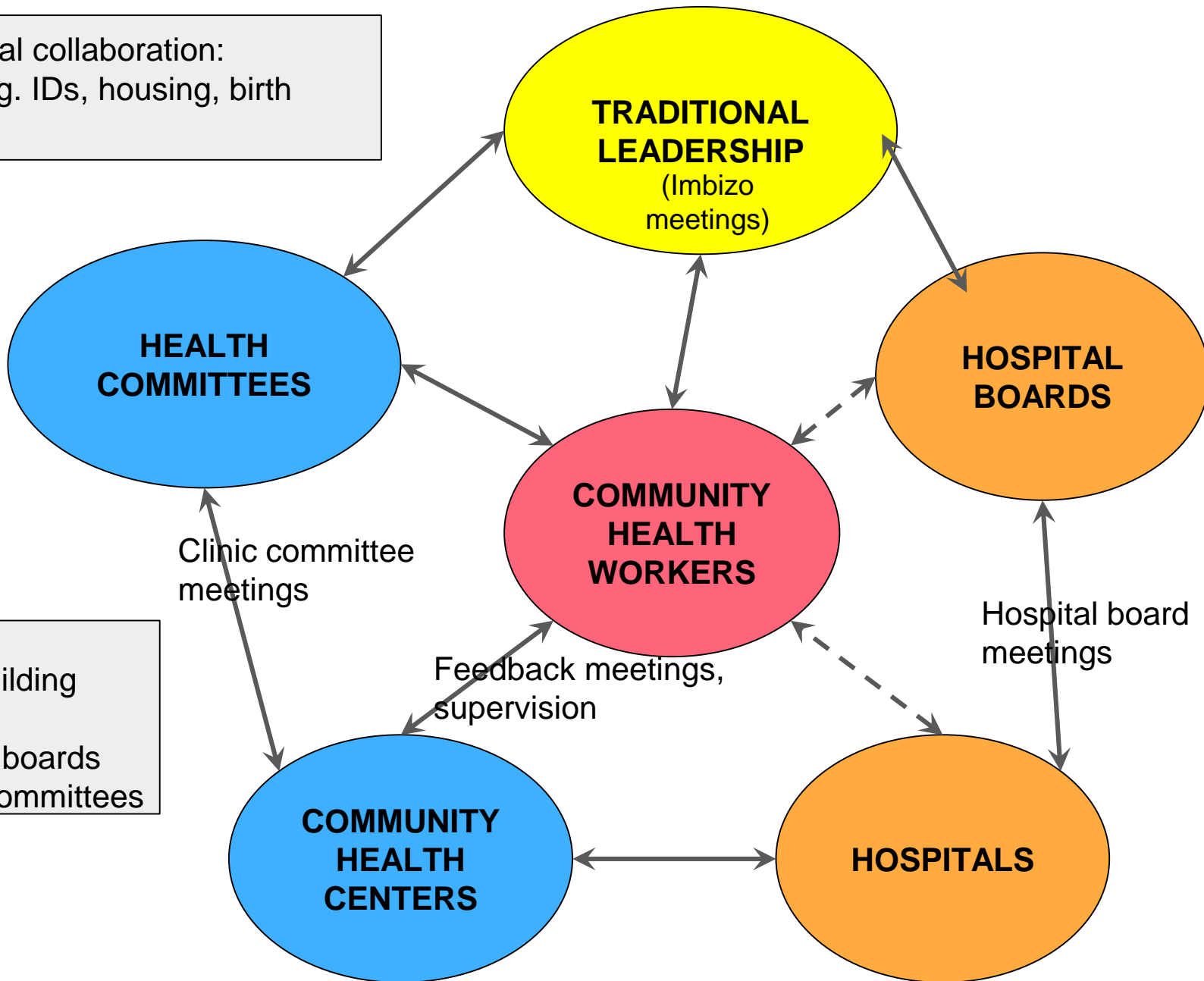
METHODS

- A cross-sectional qualitative study
- 3 health facilities (two CHCs and 1 hospital) - purposively selected based on their positive community engagement experience
- Attended 3 hospital board meetings
- 16 individual interviews and 3 focus group discussions (FGDs) with Health committee members, CHWs, facility managers, an NGO official, PNs, hospital board members, WBOT coordinator, a maternal health manager and groups of pregnant women
- Review of minutes from health committee meetings, CHW reports, and documents from monthly maternal health meetings

FINDINGS

The unique aspect in this community participation model is the level of engagement and collaboration among all the stakeholders as presented in the stakeholder collaboration diagram

Intersectional collaboration:
referrals, e.g. IDs, housing, birth
certificates



NGOs
Capacity building
• CHWs
• Hospital boards
• Health committees

Summary of Findings and conclusion

- Success of the community participation was based on:
- **Trust** – building and nurturing relationships to increase trust
- **Accountability** – reporting, follow up and action on meeting minutes
- **Effective supervision**- regular feedback meetings, use of technology – mentor mothers
- **Proactiveness and commitment** – engaging NGOs meaningfully, intersectoral collaboration

Challenges and Implication

Challenges

Resources to support implementation of community engagement activities

Capacity building for communities to effectively engage in health services provision/awareness

Implications

Need for innovation and harness all the available resources and capacities at community level e.g use of NGOs, retired nurses etc

Creating spaces for innovation and learning in the health setting environments – bottom up approaches

Improve accountability systems including M&E systems

Acknowledgement

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THANK YOU!!