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Redesigning Honduras Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Policy - A System-Thinking Lens

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Tension for change - the stagnation of maternal survival in Honduras



Adapted from Hovmand et al. 2016 - Washington University in St Louis



Political decision to redesign MNCH policy

- SMI and System Dynamics simulation modeling
- Participatory redesign process
 - Conventional strategic planning (SWOT, epi & institutional assessments)
 - Scenario planning (Imagining plausible futures in the context of a very dynamic environment)
 - Using system thinking tools for policy design



How can Honduras accelerate maternal survival?



Adapted from: Hovmand et al. 2016 - Washington University in St Louis



Confluence of domestic and external factors

SMI's focus on population-level outcomes brought MNH issues to evidence-informed policy dialogue agenda



Photo credit: Janko Ferlic

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Development of a System Dynamics MNH Simulation Model using group model-building (GMB)



Photo credit: Peter Hovmand



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At BMGF, a growing interest in understanding *how* to achieve global *impact at scale*

Group model building and system dynamics - "seeing" own system; negotiating meaning about system elements, interrelations, and system boundaries



Several high leverage points were identified through the participatory modeling process

Mapping policy options and experimenting with high-leverage points



Leverage point in the model

Increasing accessibility

Increasing affordability

Quality improvement (QI)

Increasing quality improvement capabilities (QI+)

Increasing women's health status





Honduras - Simulation model scenarios for MN survival



Peter Hovmand- Washington University in St Louis



Peter Hovmand- Washington University in St Louis





Peter Hovmand- Washington University in St Louis





Complementing evidence-informed policy design with SD models and GMB

System thinking-informed policy dialogue brought new perspectives: multi-sectorial approaches, adolescents and girls, improvement and system learning



The result: A new inter sectorial MNCH policy, with a strong focus on girls and adolescents



Promise and risks

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