Supplementary Trainings on Non-Medical Topics for Community Health Workers in Mutsengo, Kenya

Steven Fox - Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
Partnering with Empower Kenya, Kaloleni, Kenya

ABSTRACT

- Assessed needs and looked for solutions that are
  - Executed and maintained locally
  - Income-generating
  - Provided skills trainings to CHWs on these topics
  - Help initiate projects using these skills
- These projects show some modest continuing success

INTRODUCTION

Mutsengo
- Rural community
- Coastal Kenya
- About 2 hrs from Mombasa
- Economy largely dependent on agriculture

12 CHWs in Mutsengo:
- Volunteers
- Active in community
- Already trained on preventive health topics
- Liaison to Ministry of Health
- Looking for some supplementary training

Discuss with CHWs and community members – Some of the challenges facing the health of the community
- Unsatisfactory crop yield
- Lack of work
- Long distance from hospital
- Illnesses
- Need for first aid supplies
- Malnutrition in children
- Chiggers

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic/project</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural methods</td>
<td>The methods were practiced on a few farms. Results from last harvest not much better on farms that implemented these methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making soap locally</td>
<td>CHWs started an organization to purchase ingredients and to sell the soap to community members. Still continuing to make soap, economically sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making leather sandals</td>
<td>Never really begun due to prohibitive startup costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molding bricks from soil</td>
<td>Bricks still being produced and sold in the nearby town or used for local buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting and managing a business</td>
<td>Soap and brick cooperatives are still in business, and several people opened bank accounts. Otherwise difficult to determine effect of this training session.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSION

- There was substantial interest in Mutsengo for learning new skills as a way to be more able to generate income, improve food availability, and improve health conditions as a whole.
- Targeting the CHWs as participants was effective due to their level of commitment and activity in the community, but more could have been done to reach the wider community.
- Some of the projects have shown some modest success, but more evaluation is needed in the future to confirm the effectiveness of this type of project.

REFERENCES

- All information was obtained from conversations with CHWs or other community members, or through observation
- All other pictures were taken by Steven Fox in Mutsengo, Kenya