



Health Partnership Scheme - Uganda Sharing and Learning Event

29 March 2017

Hotel Africana | Kampala, Uganda

THET hosted a Health Partnership Scheme – Uganda Sharing and Learning Event in Kampala, Uganda on 29th March 2017 for all Ugandan Health Partnership Scheme (HPS) partners. The event was attended by 29 people from health institutions across Uganda, with roles ranging from lead Ugandan partner and project manager to nurse and clinical officer. In total, 21 different health partnerships were represented with 11 having the opportunity to formally present their work (*see attached agenda for speakers and affiliations*). The Sharing and Learning Event comes near the end of the HPS, a six-year programme implemented from 2011, with support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and managed by THET.

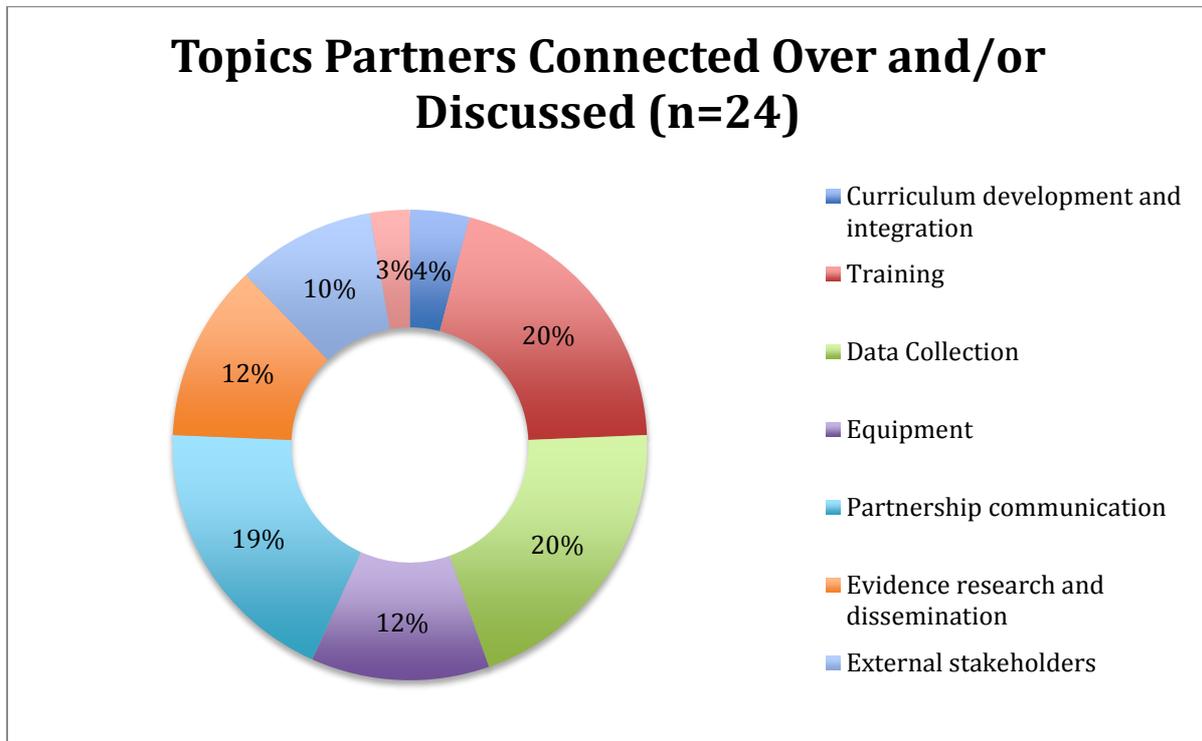
The focus of the HPS is on improving the quality of health services and building the capacity of health workers and the faculty needed to train them. Uganda is the country which has the greatest number of HPS-funded projects, having had a total of 44. The partnerships are clustered around ten health thematic areas, the most common being child health, maternal & newborn health, general health and mental health. These health areas correlate to the present and emerging burden of disease in Uganda. THET Uganda has been supporting the coordination and inputs of the partnerships to the strategic priorities of the Ministry of Health alongside promoting learning and exchange across partnerships.

The aim of the Uganda Sharing and Learning Event was to serve as a platform for health partners to share their experiences and learning from their projects and partnership working, to establish or strengthen connections between partnerships, to support the work of the Uganda – UK Health Alliance, and to update partners on THET Uganda activities. It was an all-day event, with thematic presentations, interactive sessions, and lightning partnership presentations - ten-minute introductions of different partnerships' projects, accomplishments, challenges faced and responses.

With the end of the HPS approaching and many partnerships having completed implementation, salient topics as indicated by partners were the utility of evidence and research, sustainability of projects, scaling up partnership activities, and engaging with the wider HPS and health partnership community. This reflects the longer-term and future-focused perspective of many health partnerships that see positive value of their projects and seek to continue activities. The most helpful session, as indicated in attendee evaluation forms, was *Ensuring Sustainability* co-presented by Robert Ssekitoleko of the Mulago and University of Salford Partnership, and Richard Skone James from THET.

Additionally, the Lightning Presentations from seven different partnerships sparked a number of conversations and connections, demonstrating the value of platforms like the Sharing and Learning Event for health partners to identify synergies and opportunities in others' work and to engage with the wider health partnership community. On average, most attendees indicated they connected with 4 other partners, with most of those being lightning presenters who were sought out after their brief presentation. Health worker

trainings, data collection methods, and partnership communication were the most common topics of partner connections and conversations (Figure 1).



One example of cross-partnership connection came after John Isiiko, Pharmacist from Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, gave a dynamic presentation on his partnership's work with University Hospital Bristol NHS trust to improve delivery of chemotherapy at a local clinic. Allan Ndawula, project manager for the Salford – Mountains of the Moon partnership spoke up after the presentation to highlight a potential opportunity for collaboration. The Salford – Mountains of the Moon partnership is now communicating with Mbarara to learn from their experience as Mountains of the Moon establishes a training for midwives to use a recently acquired chemotherapy machine.

Like the connection made between Mbarara and Mountains of the Moon, cross-partnership communication and learning continued throughout the day as the sharing and learning event proved opportune for recognition of partner synergies and opportunities for working together.

Overall, the presentations and conversations offered valuable insight into how health partnerships are strengthening human resources for health in the Ugandan health system. Of the 29 partners to attend the event, 25 completed evaluation forms. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all delegates who completed the evaluation forms rating the event as 'Good' or 'Excellent'. Other responses catalysed by the event can be seen in Figure 2, below. Regarding potential additional THET events, partners asked for further opportunities for networking and connection opportunities and chances to hear about different models of partnership working.

For THET, the Uganda Sharing and Learning Event served to further efforts to strengthen partnerships themselves and the links between Ugandan health partners, and to provide platforms for partners to share experiences and learn from others' challenges and responses. Further to this, THET was able to introduce our Principles of Partnership and related Partnership Health Check self-assessment guide alongside stimulating conversation amongst partners as to the value of critical assessments of the partnership relationship.

Responses to 'This Sharing and Learning Event has allowed me to:'

