Why does localization matter in health emergency response?

With health authorities, non-state health actors are important partners. They provide leadership and are key to the success of an emergency response.

WHO Strategy Vision: Operationalizing the Localization Strategy

1. Local actors have a key role in emergency response.
2. Health authorities need to ensure non-state actors are involved.
3. Health authorities must work with non-state actors in their role as emergency first responders.

The Localization Strategy was introduced by the UN Secretary-General in 2017 to improve the effectiveness of the UN response to humanitarian crises. It is a process of translating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the local context. Pursuing the SDGs will deliver a better future for local communities and livelihoods.

Why is Localization important for WHO?

1. Localization allows WHO to adapt to local needs and circumstances.
2. By working with local actors, WHO can better respond to disease outbreaks and early detection.
3. Local actors can provide more empathy despite lacking expertise, which does not rule out a role for health experts.

Localization is used to describe the process of translating the SDGs into the local context. Pursuing the SDGs will deliver a better future from COVID-19.

The WHO Localization Strategy

1. Define the term localization.
2. Work to operationalize localization.
3. Assess and select countries.
4. Design the framework.
5. Monitor and evaluate.

WHO Benchmark Countries

- Syria
- Somalia
- Afghanistan

WHO Members and Grand Bargain Signatories are asked to:

1. Define the term localization.
2. Work to operationalize localization.
3. Assess and select countries.
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5. Monitor and evaluate.

Best practices identified:

- Syria’s experience.
- Somalia’s transition.
- Afghanistan’s empowerment of local and national health actors.

Designing of the Localization Framework

- Must be able to rehabilitate its health system and sustainably.
- Must work in collaboration and coordination.
- Must be able to adapt to the local context.

WHO Localisation Strategy

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