



Evaluation of Mother Support Group Program

“A CASE STUDY”

BRIDGING THE RESEARCH – POLICY DIVIDE

NCEPH, June 3rd 2010



Purpose of providing the research support to policy

- To determine whether the MSG are successful in delivering their four principal objectives which includes:
 1. Provide support to mothers about good breastfeeding and infant feeding practice,
 2. Strengthen community support systems,
 3. Involve mothers in promoting the formation and ongoing activities of the MSG
 4. establish linkages with the health authorities aimed at encouraging cooperation and collaboration with the MSG in breastfeeding promotion.

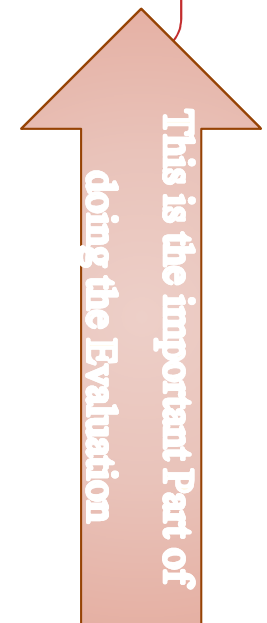


Continuation of the Purpose

- How effective are the group for doing the promotion of and counselling on breastfeeding and complementary feeding ?
- Are they impacting on community behaviour change ?

“For What”

- On the basis of the answers to inform whether the program needs to continue or be changed in the future and how it might be changed or improved.
- Implemented the changes for the MSG program





Continuation of “For What”

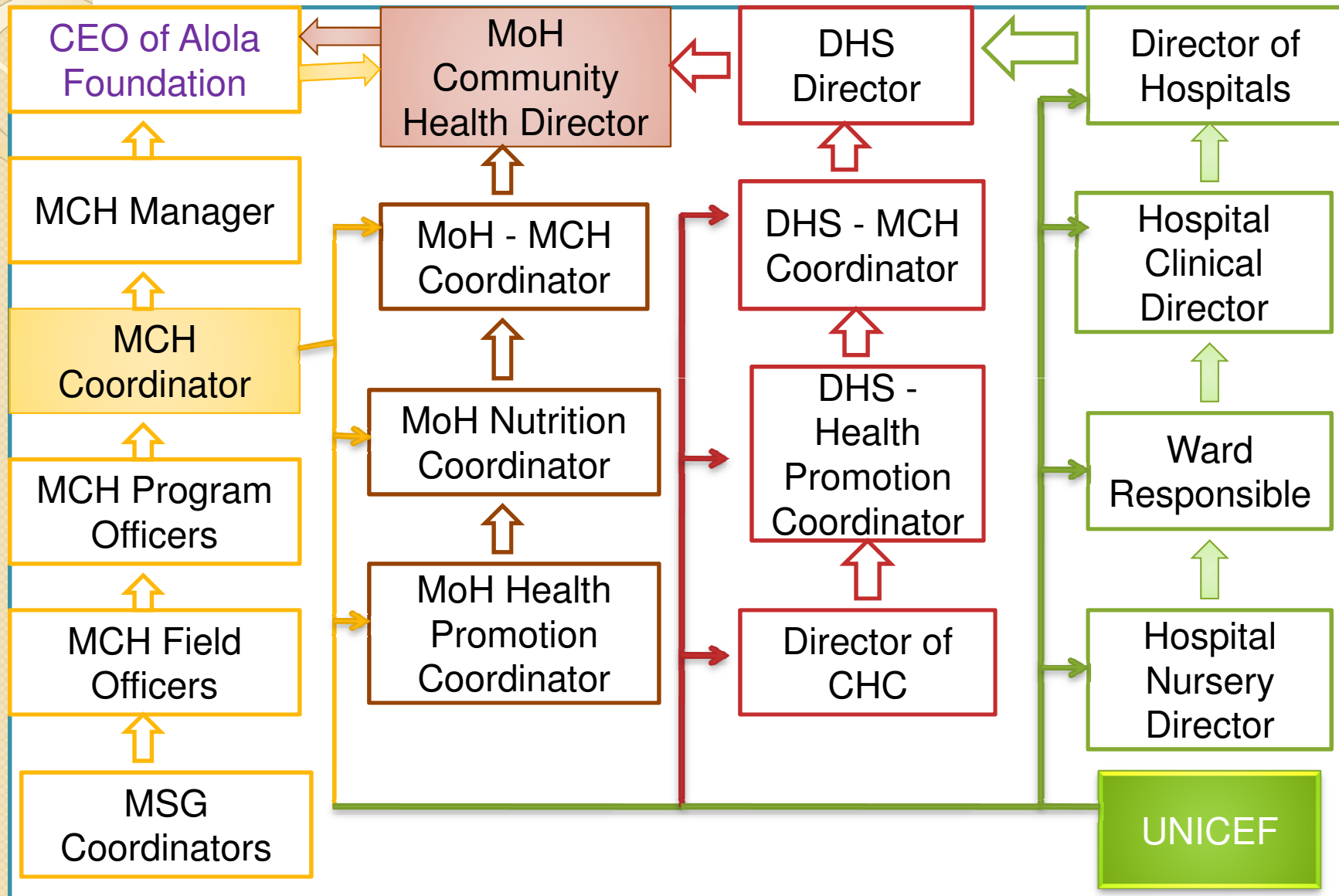
- Provide support to mothers about good breastfeeding and infant feeding practice.
- Strengthen community support systems
- Involved mothers in promoting the formation and ongoing activities of the MSG.
- Established linkages with the health authorities aimed at encouraging cooperation and collaboration with the MSG in breastfeeding promotion.



Who was intended to benefit from doing so?

- MSG members
- Mothers and babies
- Other women in the community
- Fathers and families within the community
- Health service providers
- Health authorities

Of What – Taking a System View





Boundary Setting

- 3 months evaluation
- Out in 8 districts were only 4 districts covered by the program
- Using AF networks
- Use External Consultant
- Alola Foundation is the one lead and focus on promoting breastfeeding program.

Problem Framing

- High infant and neonatal mortality and morbidity.
- Effectiveness of MSG program in improving breastfeeding practices.
- World BF week celebration





Taking Values into account

- Saving babies life's
- Protect babies from getting infection disease
- Improve the nutrition health status for infant and young child
- Improve mothers health



Deciding which differences to harness and which to manage

- MoH policy is to Reduce MMR and CMR in the country
- Alola Foundation's policy is working to support MoH in order to improve Nutrition health status of children in the country.
- To manage: Could work together as a partner to bring healthy life for women and children in the country.



How?

- Conduct the evaluation of the MSG program
- Result analysed
- Invite decision makers (MoH Nutrition department, AF CEO, MCH Manager, DHS)
- Present the result of the evaluation and recommendations to the decision makers



By whom

- Alola Foundation's MCH Coordinator
- External person from university



When

- Involved since the beginning of the evaluation process,
- Throughout the evaluation and data analysing
- During presentation of the result/report
- Decision making process.



Overall contextual Factors

- Gained independence in 1999
- High MMR, Neonatal death and under 5 MR
- New Government, new structure and system
- Opportunity for research : MICS 2002 and DHS 2003 report available as evidence.
- AF used evidence (MICS and DHS report) to begin the MCH Program
- Coordination, meetings and discussion on the project of NBFA with MoH.
- MoU
- Project Implementation and after 4 years, AF decided to conduct the evaluation of MSG program to ensure the electiveness of the program.
- AF invited external person from UNSW to help and support the implementation of the evaluation.



Legitimacy

- AF has capacity, knowledge and human resource to lead the program
- AF could obtain funds
- Support by UN Agency
- Project supported MoH's MCH Goal and gave strong rationale.
- Chairperson of AF First Lady of TL provided further legitimacy.



Organisational Barriers and Facilitators

Barriers:

- Time constraint
- Donor constraint
- Difference in perspectives about the importance of breastfeeding program.

Facilitators:

- Evaluation report was able to influence the policy makers to continue and improve the program.

Outcomes

- The evaluation report was able to influence the policy makers to changing the policy (Incrementalism model)
- MSG members:
 1. MSG provided with Safe Motherhood, FP and sexual reproductive health.
 2. Improve the linkages between MSG members and health facilities
 3. Referral system (from community to health facilities) established
 4. MSG provided with enough support from AF Staffs
 5. MSG guidelines developed
 6. Provide care for the carer

Outcomes

- Mothers and babies:
 1. Mothers involved in promoting the formation and ongoing activities of the MSG
 2. Mothers received information package of optimal Infant and young child feeding practice.
 3. Mothers able to practice exclusive breastfeeding for first 6 month and introduce appropriate and timely complementary foods for their young child.

Outcomes

- Other women in the community:
 - Educated and receive information as well as involved in the ongoing activities of IYCF promotion
- Fathers and families within the community:
 - Involved in the IYCF promotion activities and support mothers for optimal IYCF.
- Health service providers: Supported by MSG members in providing HP activities at the health facilities
- Health authorities: encouraged cooperation and collaboration with the MSG in breastfeeding promotion



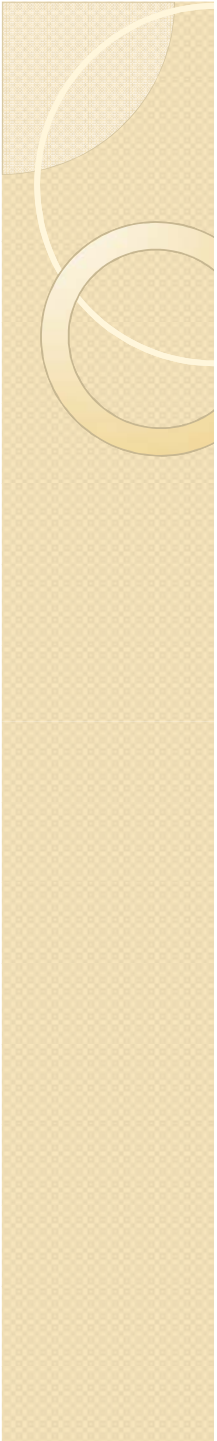
Unanticipated outcomes

- Community local leaders:
 1. supported by MSG members for the health issues agenda
 2. Community mobilization (SISCa, Immunization campaign)
- Local Government (Department of agriculture, Dept of Edu and DA):
Use MSG members as a key people to conduct activities within community



Unanticipated outcomes

- Stakeholders:
 1. Trust in MSG members and use MSG to promote their health messages to the community members.
 2. Involve MSG in facilitating their activities
- MSG members: MSG gain the knowledge and experience (empowerment)



What Could have been different regarding this system approach

- The system perspectives of the policy and practice could be expanded broadly to include other stakeholders (includes community and other NGO).
- The method of involve other stakeholders (includes community leaders and other NGO) will be more useful.
- Report should be presented into the national nutrition working group.



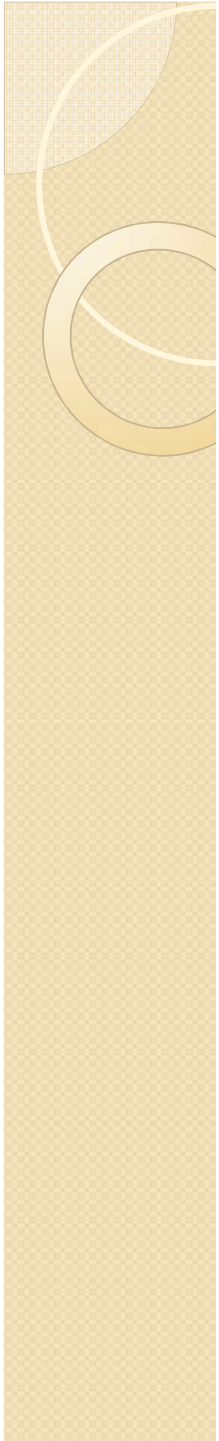
In AF Control

- Implementation done by FA and MSG members
- Monthly monitoring system of FA and MSG activities were applied by the FA towards the implementation of the policy
 -
- Coordination meeting with DHS to ensure the implementation of the changes applied at the health facility.



Not in AF Control

- The DHS are not in FA Control
- The MSG members are community health volunteers and FA can not control them (Government policy)



THANK YOU