

USAID Knowledge Management Inventory

Community-based Growth Promotion (CBGP) Practitioner's Forum

1. *Describe your knowledge sharing activity - what did you do? – how did you do it?*

Community-based Growth Promotion (CBGP) is a community based, preventive health and nutrition program that actively engages families of children under two and the community in maintaining the adequate growth of young children and caring for and treating sick children under five years. The idea was developed within the Secretariat of Health of Honduras.

With the spread of the CBGP program beyond Honduras, we have tried to foster a lateral learning network among practitioners of CBGP for knowledge sharing. The most innovative knowledge-sharing tool to support and facilitate the lateral learning network, the practitioner's forum, was developed in collaboration with BASICS. This unique electronic forum combines the attributes of a bulletin board, listserv, website, and chatroom.

Documents can be downloaded from the forum; notices are posted; and there is a calendar on which members can post their significant events and progress. Members can ask questions, make comments or post responses, as in a listserv, or discuss issues in real time, as in a chat room. Only those trained in the CBGP program who have adopted its principles are forum members. This includes staff of ministries of health, NGOs, and consultants.

We have used more conventional means to acquaint others with the program. We facilitated regional Central America and Africa CBGP conferences as part of the creation of lateral learning networks, to raise awareness and provide training in CBGP to other countries in the regions. In addition, we facilitated a visit from Madagascar MOH staff to Honduras.

2. *Describe your motivation / rationale / value proposition / business case for the initiative – why did you do it? – for whom?* We believe that fostering south-to-south communication through development of lateral learning networks assists in adoption and sustainability of CBGP. Practitioners have a forum to help each other to be self-sustaining instead of relying on donor-supported technical assistance. With respect to our own business, new countries have often invited us to assist in CBGP implementation, even where the funding comes from another donor, e.g., the World Bank.

3. *Describe the results of the effort – who and/or what was impacted and how? – what are the benefits?* The program spread from Honduras through more conventional knowledge-sharing means and is now also being implemented in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Uganda, Ghana, Eritrea, and Zambia; Guatemala is starting a program. The practitioners' forum ensures continued technical support and has increased south-to-south communication through a lateral learning network. Ultimately, children and families benefit.

4. *Describe any future implications or issues related to the initiative, e.g., what plans are in place? What current constraints or challenges are you facing? How is the initiative being sustained / maintained? How can it be replicated or scaled up?* Currently, we host the practitioners' forum and have been collaborating with BASICS. As the BASICS project phases out, we plan to continue the forum. It is low-cost to maintain and requires little funding to continue. The challenge of the forum is primarily that many of its members are

unaccustomed to interaction through electronic means and sometimes send us their postings rather than logging in to post entries themselves. Face-to-face communication has been key in engaging additional countries in signing on to the program. It is the regional meetings, which seem to be crucial to the addition of other countries and enlarging the lateral learning network membership, that require the most additional financial input. We plan to continue to present CMGP in professional meetings and in publications.

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Electronic documentation link (if available): <http://communities.msn.com/CBGPladers>