UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI

College of Medicine

Elements of Well Functioning Community-Based Health Organisations in Mangochi District, Malawi

By

Levi Graham Soko
Bachelor of Science (Human Geography)

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the

Master of Public Health Degree

December 2007

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

The Thesis of Levi Graham Soko is approved by the Thesis Examination Committee

_____

(Chairman, Postgraduate Committee)

_____

(Supervisor)

_____

(Internal Examiner)

_____

(Head of Department)

DECLARATION

I, Levi Graham Soko hereby declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been presented for any other awards at the University of Malawi or any other University.

Name of Candidate **Levi Graham Soko**

Signature _____

Date 15th December 2007

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The production of this thesis and the research study that generated data used in this write up, became possible due to support of my current employer, Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA). Thus, I would like to express gratitude and thanks to ICEIDA for allowing me time to carry out the study and use of office equipment.

I also thank my supervisor, Dr. Bagrey Ngwira, for providing guidance in writing this dissertation. My gratitude also go to Mavuto Mukaka (Statistician), who assisted me to analyse the data using Epi-Info. I would also like to thank Save the Children USA for providing me with a list of community-based health organisations in Mangochi District. Thanks to James, Irene, Chifu and Naomi, my colleagues who were with me in the field. They assisted me a lot to conduct Focus Group Discussions. Special thanks to all community members, too numerous to mention, who agreed to participate in this study.

ABSTRACT:

Background: In an attempt to maximise use of local resources and build sense of ownership, health related government departments and donor agencies prefer to engage community-based health organisations (CBHOs) to design and implement health programmes at community level. Some CBHOs perform effectively in implementing community health programmes, while others fail.

Objective: This study attempts to establish whether good performance of CBHOs in Mangochi District, is influenced by application of a set of seven elements namely; community involvement, means of accessibility, means of increasing resource availability, programme acceptability, information system, intersectoral collaboration, and administrative capacity.

Method: Thirty-six, randomly selected CBHOs were classified into *successful* and *non-successful* CBHOs as assessed by local communities themselves, using Focus Group Discussion survey instrument. A coded checklist *(see annex 1)* was administered to executive committee members of the selected CBHOs to find whether the CBHO apply the elements and to what extent. Findings from the coded checklist were tabulated and analysed using logistic regression, to establish whether there is association between application of these elements and good performance of the CBHO.

Findings and Conclusion: The study established that the application of the elements has a positive influence on performance of CBHOs. Based on the findings, it is concluded that CBHOs need to apply the elements if they are to improve on the way they function.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ACRONYMS

ADC	Area Development Committee
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARVs	Antiretroviral drugs
CAC	Community AIDS Committee
CBCCC	Community-Based Child Care Centre
CBHC	Community Based Health Care
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CBHOs	Community-Based Health Organisation(s)
CHW	Community Health Worker
C.I.	Confidence Interval
COMREC	College of Medicine Research Ethics Committee
FBO	Faith Based Organisations
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HBC	Home Based Care
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MANASO	Malawi Network of AIDS Services Organisations
MSF	Medicines sans Frontiers
MoH	Ministry of Health
NAC	National AIDS Commission
NACC	Namwera AIDS Coordinating Committee
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NSO	National Statistical Office
PHC	Primary Health Care
PLWHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS
U S A	United States of America
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing