

Translating Research to Policy and Practice: A Case Study of Stakeholders Engagement to Improve Pharmacovigilance and Rational Medicine Use.

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Stakeholders were willing to engage in the process of translating research into policy. At the end of the meeting, stakeholders identified a research area for collaboration and engagement with a timeline and specific outcome deliverables.

BACKGROUND

In Nigeria, much of the health research is conducted in isolation not aligned with national priorities, resulting in wasted resources and minimal impact. To bridge the gap between researchers, policymakers, and the community, collaborative efforts from all key stakeholders are essential. These collaborations help identify problems and co-create solutions, fostering ownership and strong commitments to implementation. To test the process of working together on a national priority to influence policy and practice, a workshop was convened in March 2024 to promote stakeholder collaboration in strengthening pharmacovigilance (PV) and rational medicine use (RMU).

The workshop aimed to:

1. Assess the current state of PV and RMU in Nigeria, identifying strengths and weaknesses.
2. Identify areas needing improvement to enhance PV and RMU in the community.
3. Establish a working group to develop solutions for these issues.

DESCRIPTION

- A stakeholder mapping process was used to identify and categorize key stakeholders for a three-day workshop.
- Participants included representatives from the Nigerian Federal Ministries of Health, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control, National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Lagos State Primary Health Care Development Agency, academic institutions, patient groups, and the community.
- Stakeholders were selected based on their influence, power, and interest.
- The workshop sessions were designed to meet the objectives and included techniques such as breakout sessions to ensure active participation.

OUTCOMES

- The workshop demonstrated a strong willingness among researchers, policymakers, patients, and community members to collaborate on improving PV and RMU practices in Nigeria
- Participants identified miscommunication and misaligned research priorities as barriers to translating research into policy and practice.
- Additionally, a lack of resources was noted, as individuals in these groups often lack the time to organize and coordinate necessary activities. Independent organizations, such as NGOs, are crucial for effectively coordinating these efforts to achieve measurable success.
- Stakeholders assessed the current state of PV and RMU in Nigeria and identified key problem areas.



OUTCOMES CONTINUED

- The group decided that the first step would be to conduct a baseline study to understand pharmacovigilance knowledge, attitudes, and practices (PV-KAP) in Nigeria to inform appropriate interventions.
- Three working groups were formed to evaluate PV-KAP among (i) patients, (ii) healthcare workers, and (iii) community dwellers, with an agreed-upon study schedule and timeline.



IMPACT & LESSONS

- Involving stakeholders to steer research to influence policy and practice is vital for improving public health outcomes. Stakeholders are eager to collaborate in identifying national priority issues and devising solutions for them.
- A collaborative approach is necessary to establish resilient and sustainable health systems and structures.

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