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**The value of implementation science in Africa: Engagement and capacity building in Liberia, Malawi, and South Africa**

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**Objectives/aims**

The Sustainable Development Goals have brought into focus the importance of building the capacity of local NGOs. The presentation will explore the strengths, challenges and adaptations of the application of implementation science, with examples from 3 different countries in Africa.

The presentation is intended to:

* Promote discussion about the application of IS in culturally diverse contexts with limited resource and poor infrastructure.
* Illustrate adaptations and strategies to support implementation and sustainability in Africa
* Explore processes to support co-creating the implementation process can increase capacity at the local NGO.
* Highlight future areas for IS research.

**Methods**

Families Foundation’s capacity building model is based on the core constructs of implementation science, local decision-making and co-creation of process has been applied in Tshwane, South Africa, where service delivery is occurring, and full implementation achieved, Liberia where co-creation of projects, process and submission of funding proposals has been achieved and Malawi which is at the initial engagement stage.

Applying core constructs of implementation science, informed by a capacity building model, enhanced the capacity of local NGOs, enabled the use of evidence-based practices, provided the forum to co-create cultural/contextual adaptations to the practice being implemented.

**Main findings**

Findings from South Africa demonstrate that ebps developed in high income countries can be implemented with success and achieve the outcomes for which they have been developed. The process also illustrates the challenges that need to be addressed and ways in which these can be overcome.

The process in Liberia illustrates success in fostering cross sectoral partnerships through the application of the core constructs of IS leading to co-creation of funding proposals.

The engagement in Malawi illustrates the perceived benefits of a local NGO in accessing the expertise and knowledge base of proven processes such as those provided by implementation science when based on a capacity building model.