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TB IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

GUIDE TO INTEGRATING EMPOWERMENT EVALUATION (EE) AND THE COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK (CAF)

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GUIDE: EE

This guide presents a roadmap for combining Empowerment Evaluation (EE) and the Community Accountability Framework (CAF) to foster community-based health improvement, particularly in the context of eliminating tuberculosis (TB). Drawing from best practices and case studies, it highlights how these frameworks can be operationalized to address both broad and specific challenges.

Step 1: Establishing Foundations Through Empowerment Evaluation

Mission

- Facilitate consensus-building among stakeholders to define a shared mission.
- Example: In TB elimination projects, this could include goals like improving access to timely diagnosis and treatment or reducing stigma.

Taking Stock

- Assess the community's current status using participatory methods such as dot voting, rating activities, and dialoguing around priorities.
- Example: Identify barriers in TB care, such as delays in diagnosis or limited access to health services.

Planning for the Future

- Develop actionable strategies based on the findings from the "Taking Stock" phase.
- Example: If stigma is a major issue, plan community campaigns and capacity-building workshops for health workers.

Key Tools: Dots for prioritization, evaluation dashboards to monitor progress, e.g., baseline metrics, milestones, and goals..

GUIDE: CAF

CAF operationalizes community-driven accountability by identifying, addressing, and resolving gaps in service delivery.

Step 2: Applying the Community Accountability Framework

Identify-Ideate-Implement

- Identify: Use structured tools to gather data on service quality (e.g., CAF surveys asking about timeliness of diagnosis and counseling on cough hygiene).
- Ideate: Collaborate with stakeholders, including TB Champions and health officials, to propose actionable solutions.
- Implement: Take coordinated action to address identified gaps, ensuring involvement from both communities and health systems.

Block Action Plans

- Develop and execute plans to address specific gaps, such as transport challenges or drug availability, identified through CAF tools.

Feedback and Iteration

- Establish consultative mechanisms, such as quarterly review meetings, to refine strategies based on ongoing results.

GUIDE: Integrating EE and CAF

The integration of EE and CAF can take several forms, depending on the local context:

Macro-to-Micro Approach

- Start with EE to understand the broader social determinants of health (e.g., housing, employment, education) and integrate CAF to tackle specific TB-related issues within that framework.
- Best for areas where TB is under relative control.

Micro-to-Macro Approach

- Begin with CAF to address immediate TB-related needs and later expand to broader empowerment evaluations that address systemic issues.
- Best for areas with high TB prevalence.

Meta Approach

- Use EE to evaluate and refine the implementation of CAF itself, ensuring both frameworks improve iteratively over time.

GUIDE: Capacity Building and Sustainability

Both EE and CAF emphasize empowering communities for long-term success. Steps to ensure sustainability include

Training

- Train TB Champions, community leaders, and health workers to facilitate both EE and CAF processes.
- Example: Equip TB Champions with CAF tools and the skills to analyze and act on data.

Strengthening Systems

- Use CAF findings to advocate for systemic changes, such as integrating TB care into broader health programs or improving transport for rural areas.

Monitoring and Reporting

- Use dashboards and real-time data tracking to assess progress and make mid-course corrections.

Building Trust and Ownership: Foster collaborative environments where stakeholders co-develop solutions and feel accountable for outcomes.

GUIDE
Case Study - TB Elimination in India

Empowerment Evaluation in Action

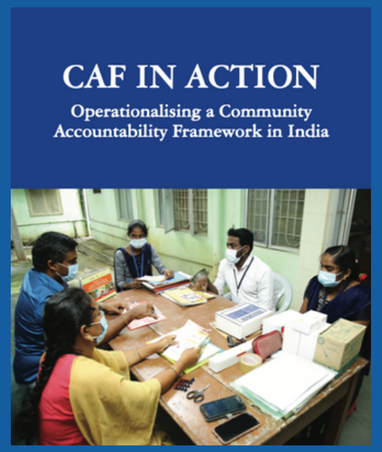
- Mission: Develop community ownership and sustainable accountability frameworks.
- Taking Stock: Identify key activities like stigma reduction and ensuring drug availability.
- Planning for the Future: Implement solutions such as local transport systems and home visits by TB Champions.

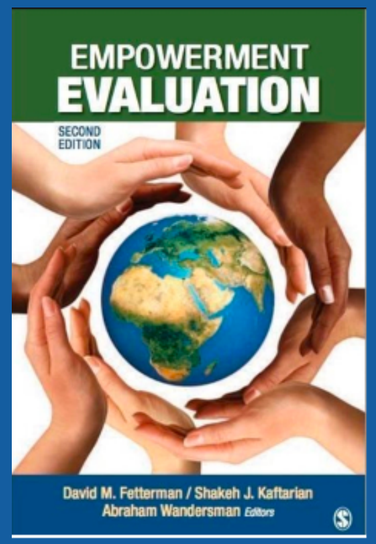
CAF Application

- Identify: Use CAF tools to collect data on service gaps, such as delays in diagnosis.
- Ideate: Propose solutions like providing sputum tests closer to communities.
- Implement: Engage health workers and community leaders to roll out solutions.

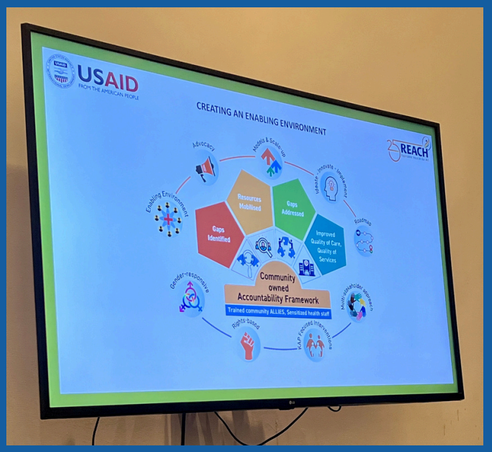
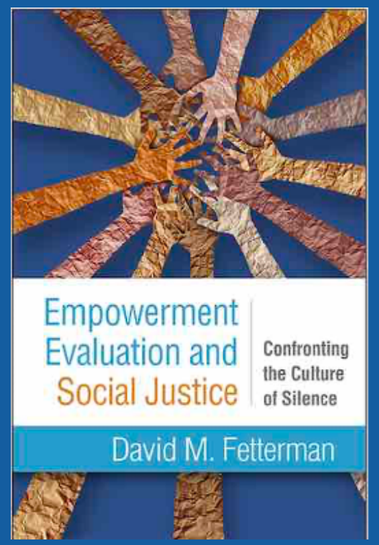
Integrated Approach

- Combine EE's participatory evaluation with CAF's structured accountability to create a dynamic system for monitoring and improvement.





Conclusion

Integrating EE and CAF fosters community empowerment and systemic accountability. Whether addressing TB or other community health challenges, these frameworks provide scalable, adaptable solutions that center on community ownership, evidence-based strategies, and sustained capacity building. By leveraging both approaches, communities can tackle immediate health challenges while building resilient systems for the future.

Our work would not be possible without the invaluable support of USAID, JSI, @John Snow India Pvt. Ltd, and TIFA. Together with our dedicated partners at REACH and the TB Champions, we are expanding evaluation capacity and fostering empowerment to support TB prevention across India and beyond.