



LGT Impact Fellowship

Testimonial



Interview with Tendai Mayani, Senior Program Manager at mothers2mothers (m2m) in Lilongwe, Malawi since three years. Tendai is designing and managing integrated programs in the areas of Reproductive, Maternal, and New Born Child Health (RMNCH), Prevention of Mother-To-Child transmission (PMTCT) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) and has been working closely together with LGT Impact Fellow Diana Quintero on various projects. Diana is from Colombia and supported the team of m2m as a Community Health Fellow in 2019/2020.

How was it working with Diana?

“Diana is a person who is very easy to work with. Her working style was patient, collaborative and determined. More specifically she would always seek people’s opinions and listen to them before drawing any conclusions. She truly brought people together. She would ask for advice, while being the person anybody could reach out to at any time and finally, she was very determined. If she had an idea, she would work on it in a focused way and would push us in a polite way to ensure that work gets delivered.”

Which were Diana’s most important qualities?

“Diana’s passion and energy were impressive. With these qualities she was able to move through obstacles and managed to always deliver her assignments. Moreover, she was very concerned about the continuity of her work and as a result she ensured that the right people were trained to take over her duties before her departure.”

What results did you achieve together?

“There were quite a few programs that existed already, but through the support of Diana, those programs could be revamped and they gained again traction, such as the Back to School program, where m2m supports and encourages Mentor Mothers to catch up on their secondary education, or the Wellness program, where employees are offered a range of additional benefits to their salaries, such as Yoga classes, etc. Also the development of the KPI dashboard was an important deliverable. The most valuable achievement, however, was that we have strengthened the relations with the Community Health Sector of the Ministry of Health of Malawi. Diana has been a driving force in this achievement.”

In your opinion what is the value provided by a Fellow?

“As we have seen with Diana, the greatest value is to receive new ideas and new perspectives. A Fellow comes in with an outside view and can hence analyze our business more objectively and ultimately identify gaps.”

What did you and your team learn from Diana?

“I learnt from her to always be passionate about what we do, to never stop learning, to share learnings with others and to always look out for new opportunities. I was personally very inspired by her drive to pursue her Master’s degree after the Fellowship and I realized that no matter what I do, I should always make sure that I keep learning. I will truly miss her.”

Would you recommend this program and why?

“Absolutely, because organizations can learn a lot from Fellows. They help organizations widen their eyes, uncover gaps and bring in expertise.”

mothers2mothers, Lilongwe, Malawi



Problem

In parts of Africa, up to 75% of babies born to HIV+ mothers stand to lose their mothers to AIDS-related illnesses. Lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS and fear of stigma prevent mothers living with HIV/AIDS from searching the right kind of support to prevent transmission and learning to live with HIV/AIDS.

Solution

- m2m hires HIV+ mothers to educate and support new HIV+ mothers to learn how to live with HIV/AIDS
- Education and empowerment tools prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS during and after pregnancy, combat stigma within families and communities, support a mother’s adherence to medical treatment, and reduce the likelihood of AIDS orphans
- m2m’s enhanced program model (EPM) provides reproductive, maternal, newborn, child health (RMNCH) to HIV+ and HIV- women and their families to improve overall health
- Since 2012, m2m has decreased the number of sites it is directly working at and has focused more on capacity building for governments to include the mentor mother model into their health facilities
- m2m’s “exit strategy” is for local host governments to take over the treatment of mothers

Impact

Impact m2m	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
# of new HIV+ women clients enrolled (in '000s)	97	140	74	68	186	No longer used; patients reached: 901
# of sites (supported by m2m)	350	321	309	267	317	317
# of active countries	6	6	7	8	8	9