



Community Working Group (CWG) Fact Sheet

HPTN Community Working Group

The Community Working Group (CWG) is a committee of clinical research site (CRS) representatives and community specialists that advises and advocates for community participation at all levels of the research process and ensures community participation is adequately addressed at CRSs and in the management of the HPTN. The CWG functions to facilitate, direct, and advocate for inclusion of the research community as partners in the HPTN research.

The HPTN CWG advocates, builds capacity, and provides technical assistance to HPTN participants and communities. This is done through participation in regular conference calls and face-to-face meetings of the CWG as well as with interaction with HPTN protocol teams and other network committees.

The HPTN CWG works to:

- Inform, facilitate and guide the development of a community centered, relevant, utilitarian and ethical research agenda
- Bridge the gap between research participants, the communities in which they live and the research community
- Proactively identify challenges and provide formalized mechanisms for dialogue that will provide ethical and scientific rigor aimed at effectively reducing the number of new infections

HPTN CWG goals include increasing understanding of community collaboration in HIV prevention research; developing community capacity within HPTN sites to participate in research collaboration; and to assure that all research conducted within the HPTN is done in collaborative partnership with the community by integrating community perspectives. These goals are met by:

- Integrating the participation of community members who represent diverse HIV study communities and their advocates into the CWG, the Ethics Working Group (EWG), Science Working Groups (SWG), protocol teams and other HPTN committees as partners
- Promoting understanding of community needs and issues among HPTN researchers
- Informing and advising the HPTN Executive Committee (EC) on issues of concern
- Providing leadership to HPTN site community staff in addressing cross-cutting issues for culturally diverse populations, communities and technical areas that form the focus of HPTN research, including ethics
- Implementing a participatory process that values people's time and energy
- Supporting collaboration and partnership at the site, working group and network levels

- Advising and advocating for HPTN efforts to support research and evaluation addressing community participation at all levels of HPTN HIV prevention research

Membership and Structure

HPTN Global CWG

Membership in the Global CWG includes:

- Voting Members
 - CWG Co-chairs
 - Regional Representatives
 - United States
 - India
 - China
 - Thailand
 - Africa
 - Latin America
 - Community Partners (CP) Representatives
 - Community Ethics Working Group (EWG) Representative
 - Science Review Committee Representatives
- Non-Voting Members
 - HPTN CORE Community Program Staff
 - HPTN Associate Directors
 - HPTN Principle Investigators
 - Division of AIDS (NIAID/NIH) Representative
 - Ad-hoc External Scientific Advisor

The aim of the Global HPTN CWG is to conduct community preparedness and ongoing involvement activities to ensure the successful conduct of studies through partnerships.

The aim is met by achieving the following goals:

- Ensure Community input into science generation and the research process
- Build community capacity to provide input into research
- Develop mechanisms for sharing experiences, lessons learned and best practices
- Assess the impact of community involvement and develop scholarship on community participation in research

HPTN Study Specific CWG

Membership in the Study Specific CWG includes:

- Voting Members
 - HPTN CWG Co-Chairs
 - From Each Clinical Research Site
 - 1 Community Advisory Board (CAB) Member
 - 1 Community Educator (CE)
- Non-Voting Members
 - HPTN CORE Community Program Staff
 - HPTN Associate Directors

- HPTN Clinical Research Staff

The aim of the Study Specific CWG is to enhance study specific community strategies and/or identify possible challenges. The aim is met by achieving the following goals:

- To ensure the development of CIWP prior to study activation and the submission to Family Health International (FHI) CORE Community Program staff
 - To ensure that recruitment and retention plans are developed in conjunction with the site community educators (CE), outreach teams and community advisory board (CAB) members
 - To inform clinical research staff of potential social harms which may emerge prior to study activation or during implementation and ensure that these social harms are addressed as part of the sites community involvement work plan (CIWP)
- To assist in the development of study specific educational tool kits and communication plans for information dissemination
- To keep community members informed of protocol updates, site-specific community involvement activities and executive committee and community partners decisions and discussions
- To conduct community preparedness and ongoing involvement activities to ensure the successful conduct of studies through partnerships

Additional Information and Contact Details

HPTN Web Link

- <http://www.hptn.org>

HPTN CORE Community Involvement Program

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