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Overseas remittances support universal health coverage and quality of healthcare

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Title: Overseas Remittances support Universal Health Coverage and Quality of Healthcare

Background: Overseas remittances are an important resource for financing of healthcare services in low-income communities. Financial support by extended family affect interactions at healthcare facilities. They are crucial for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 3. Literature review suggests that remittance-flows have positive impact on the quality of health care; clients are part of social networks and remitters are active influencers in such networks. Remitters engage in the situation the patient is facing.

Methods: We test a remitter-inclusive approach to information-sharing in healthcare. We investigate how this sharing increases the decisions on healthcare services. We hypothesize that sharing of information contributes to a more positive Western-oriented health orientation, also in Africa.

Results: Healthcare is rarely an individual affair. Langen¹ described a paradigm clash of Western healthcare with traditional African approaches. Hence, bridging of health care paradigms is important. Remitters, living overseas, are immersed in the context of Western-based health care. They refer to their understanding, experience and knowledge of such care. Remitters that contribute directly to the patient's challenge are influential. They are trusted sources of information. Their knowledge augments local information sources. In the process of sending remittances for health, relatives in the diaspora discuss health-issues within social groupings. Experiences, expectations, and health-related information are exchanged. These exchanges shift attributed values and communal attitudes towards the health-services and the local knowledge base of the health-challenges at hand.

Conclusions and Recommendations: Involvement of overseas remitters in information exchange on options of patients can improve the quality of the decision-making and their remittances can contribute to expand health-coverage and quality of healthcare.

Keywords: training, HR4H, eHealth

¹ Langen, Eveline. 2010. *Diverging Worldviews, Diverging Worlds?* Wageningen University.