

ACCORDIA GLOBAL HEALTH
SUMMIT SERIES

2013

Summit on Child Wellness



Changing the Way the World Invests in Africa's Children



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Accordia Global Health Foundation

Accordia is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building permanent capacity for health leadership and innovation in Africa through the creation and support of sustainable health institutions. African-owned “Centers of Excellence” conduct original and translational research, save lives through the provision of high quality clinical and laboratory services, and strengthen the health workforce through training and medical education. They help strengthen national and regional health systems by setting higher standards in all program areas, and working with peers to improve the widely available quality of care. They are a primary source of future leaders in research, education, policy and management, and provide an example of good governance and financial transparency for others to emulate. Centers of Excellence can transform a nation’s healthcare system from within.

Established in 2004 and based in Washington, DC, Accordia Global Health Foundation and our International Academic Alliance represent dozens of leading academic institutions and committed individuals throughout North America, Europe, and Africa. We work in close partnership with corporations, foundations, and governments around the world – bringing academic innovation and private-sector efficiency to global health programming.

In 2004, Accordia established the Infectious Diseases Institute in Uganda and has since supported it through the provision of targeted technical and financial assistance. Today, the Infectious Diseases Institute is an acknowledged regional leader in the fields of HIV research, training, prevention and clinical services – serving as an example to the world of what is possible when the right investments are made in permanent African institutions.

On the strength of our success in Uganda, and in response to other specific gaps in regional capacity, Accordia seeks to replicate aspects of that model in other parts of Africa. In 2012, we helped our colleagues in Nigeria establish the West African Infectious Diseases Institute as a multi-university collaboration, with a mission to improve the quantity and quality of locally led research and promote its use in setting strong health policy and ensuring effective practice and scale. We also work with a network of more than 20 existing health institutions in 13 African countries – facilitating “South–South” dialogue, encouraging mutual support and technical assistance, and providing opportunities for joint programming for greater regional impact.

In this report we explore Accordia’s most recent concept for the establishment of a new center of excellence – this one focused on improving child wellness in sub-Saharan Africa.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

David Greeley

Since 2007, Accordia Global Health Foundation has brought together experts from around the world, on an annual basis, to explore innovative perspectives and new insights related to our shared goal of improving health in Africa. Accordia's *Global Health Summit Series* and the advances it has enabled make up a small but fundamental component of Accordia's approach to building local capacity to accelerate development efforts in Africa.

While Africa has experienced many improvements in health metrics over the past several decades, there is still a long way to go before every individual has access to care and a healthy living environment. We seek paths to a future where, moving beyond mere sustenance and survival, Africans have the health—and opportunities—that many of us take for granted.

Accordia's approach to accelerating this evolution is to support our colleagues in building and sustaining centers of excellence within existing African academic institutions. We provide support and solutions at every step of the process: helping to define the long term vision; mobilizing the financial resources needed among the public and private sectors; ensuring robust controls in the form of governance structures, financial systems, and grants management capacity; and providing access to technical expertise through our academic partnerships around the world.

Among many other important initiatives, today we are seeking to help the University of Malawi establish and sustain an Institute for Child Wellness in Africa. We invite you to read through this report from our 2013 Summit on Child Wellness and visit www.accordiafoundation.org/programs/malawi to learn more.

Our sincere thanks go out to the many individuals and organizations who have contributed toward this vision, and our new and existing donors who have helped catalyze this initiative.

David Greeley
President & CEO
Accordia Global Health Foundation



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Accordia is dedicated to supporting the establishment of *African centers of excellence in health* by providing essential resources and catalytic technical assistance through each stage of their development. Encouraged by the success of Accordia's flagship center of excellence in Uganda, Accordia is now committed to replicating this effective model elsewhere on the continent. For the past two years, Accordia has been facilitating discussions in Malawi about the creation of a new center of excellence, focused on child wellness. The Institute for Child Wellness in Africa (ICWA) will be a world-class research institute, housed within the University of Malawi, for the design and evaluation of improved approaches to ensuring child health and wellness in resource-limited settings.

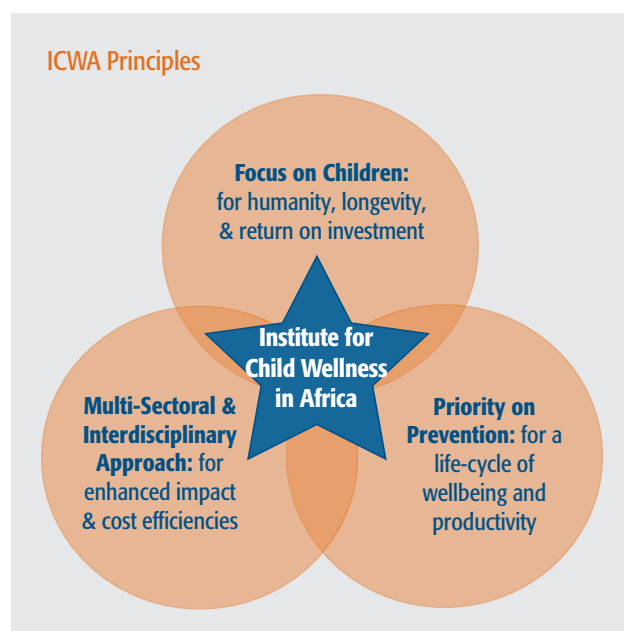
The ICWA will be based on a unique science-driven, multi-sector model that focuses on children and prioritizes prevention. It will seek innovative multi-sector solutions and bring rigorous scientific discipline to explore potential synergies and cost efficiencies across multiple development sectors for improved wellness. The ICWA will attract leading experts from institutions around the world to support this groundbreaking research. In turn, the ICWA will build knowledge and skills to enhance child wellness in Malawi and throughout the region, across a range of functions and careers in academia, practice, and policy.

In late 2013, Accordia, the University of Malawi, and Michigan State University co-hosted the *2013 Summit on Child Wellness*, to invite insights and inform the vision.

Summit attendees were selected for their diverse expertise and leadership roles in pediatrics, early childhood development, education, nutrition, agriculture and many other sectors and disciplines. They were asked to help explore three noted barriers to advances in child wellness in Africa:

- Not enough is known about factors affecting child wellness in resource-limited settings
- There is inadequate collaboration among disciplines and sectors resulting in less effective utilization of constrained resources
- Institutional and individual capacity are not being effectively harnessed to take advantage of emerging opportunities to improve child wellness

The 2013 Summit on Child Wellness was an important opportunity to gauge global interest in our vision, solicit specific input to help shape its strategy and business plan, and begin the collective process of determining its research agenda. This report provides an overview of the Summit, its proceedings, and the resulting framework for the Institute for Child Wellness in Africa.



INSTITUTE FOR CHILD WELLNESS IN AFRICA: A DIRECT RESPONSE TO OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Opportunity

Over the past two decades, significant gains have been made in the health of the world's children. More are surviving than ever before. The world has reduced the global under-five mortality rate by 47% since 1990, resulting in 90 million children's lives being saved.

Some of the most notable strides in child health and survival rates, and a large share of the total number of lives saved, have occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. Thanks to increased levels of immunization, improved nutrition and food security, and better access to health services for children and their mothers, mortality rates among Africa's children are less than half what they were just twenty years ago.

Gains like these are what make it possible for Africans to now aspire to even greater prospects for their children... looking beyond just survival, to child wellness. Now is the time to help ensure that, as children grow and develop, they are more than "healthy"... they are "well." Being well includes having sufficient food to eat, having access to quality care and education, living in a safe and secure environment, and developing a sense of value and belonging to their families and community. All the

Child wellness is a universal goal. Among African leaders and global stakeholders there is widespread consensus that all children, no matter where they are born, deserve the right to optimal health and the realization of their true potential through educational, social, and economic support. In fact, a continent of well children may offer the single greatest "return on investment" in Africa's development - representing the potential peace, prosperity, and productivity of future generations.

world's children deserve every opportunity to reach their full development potential.

The Challenge

While great advances have been made in child survival, many challenges remain. Today, children born in sub-Saharan Africa are still almost 20 times more likely to be malnourished to the detriment of their physical and mental development, will spend 50% less time in school, and have a life expectancy 20 years below that of children born in North America.

Despite the enormous goodwill and resolve of world leaders, the dedication of local healthcare workers and educators, the sacrifice of parents, and advances in new technologies and strategies, there are still many obstacles to improving child wellness around the world. While overarching barriers to development, such as persistent poverty, high disease burden and infrastructure constraints, are major drivers of childhood illness and deprivation... other, more proximate factors also play a key role in preventing advances in child wellness. These factors may be more within our power to change in the near term.

Not enough is known about factors affecting child wellness in resource-limited settings. Existing evidence about what determines the course of childhood development comes from research conducted almost entirely among North American and European populations. The shortage of locally relevant evidence limits the effectiveness of child wellness interventions in the developing world context, since culture and context play such a profound role in child health, development and wellbeing.

There is inadequate collaboration among disciplines and sectors. The determinants of child wellness are complex,

incorporating multiple disciplines including health, nutrition, child development, education, agriculture, social sciences and economics. These disciplines today often operate in silos, employ different methods and metrics, and use discipline-specific vocabularies. The lack of integration and collaboration limits potential synergies, limits access to available services, and wastes valuable assets in resource-constrained settings.

Existing institutional and individual capacity in Africa is insufficient to take advantage of emerging opportunities to improve child wellness. Too few organizations and professionals in sub-Saharan Africa have the necessary knowledge, skills, or supportive infrastructure to conduct essential new research, incorporate existing evidence into effective policy, or employ proven strategies for more impactful programs. These capacity gaps need to be addressed across a range of functions and careers in academia, policy and leadership, and professional practice.

The broad consensus that these challenges need to be addressed, along with a growing global commitment to child wellness, provides the opportunity for immediate action. In direct response, Accordia has envisioned the establishment of the Institute for Child Wellness in Africa (ICWA) as a world-class research and training institute dedicated to improving child wellness in resource-limited settings around the world.

Malawi – Recent Success and Future Aspirations

Malawi offers a unique setting for an institute dedicated to improving child wellness throughout Africa, with exaggerated local levels of both need and opportunity. In Malawi, a combination of factors such as poverty, under-nutrition, low literacy and education levels, and high fertility have resulted in some of the world's highest mortality rates

among young children, for many decades. More recently, though, Malawi has demonstrated the commitment to rapid progress. The country recently attained Millennium Development Goal 4 targets – reducing infant and child mortality by two thirds – well before the 2015 deadline... providing an excellent example to the world of what is possible with strong political will, committed leaders, and high-impact interventions.

While the country is still home to more orphaned and vulnerable children per capita than any other in Africa, it also boasts a disproportionately high level of international collaboration – an essential foundation for progress. Its academic institutions, and the University of Malawi's College of Medicine in particular, have produced some of the region's most compelling evidence in such areas as prevention of cerebral malaria, nutrition's impact on cognitive development, and strategies to prevent domestic violence.

For these reasons, Accordia identified Malawi as a potential home for our next proposed center of excellence. After two years of stakeholder consultations and local consensus building, it has been determined that the Institute will be wholly owned by the University of Malawi, jointly administered by the University's four constituent colleges, and led in collaboration with international partners around the world, in service of the Government of Malawi and global stakeholders.

The 2013 Summit on Child Wellness was an important opportunity to gauge global interest in our vision, solicit specific input to help shape its strategy and business plan, and begin the collective process of determining its research agenda. This report provides an overview of the Summit, its proceedings, and the resulting framework for the Institute for Child Wellness in Africa.

2013 SUMMIT ON CHILD WELLNESS IN MALAWI

In October 2013, Accordia Global Health Foundation hosted the 2013 Summit on Child Wellness in Malawi, in partnership with the University of Malawi, Michigan State University, and other important partners. The Summit convened local government and academic leaders from multiple sectors, along with select global experts in child wellness and surrounding disciplines. Accordia invited Summit participants to help us envision how a Malawi-based center of excellence—with upfront and sustained investment, multi-institutional collaboration, and a focus on building leadership and permanent solutions—could change the way the world invests in Africa’s children.

For more than two years, Accordia has engaged with colleagues at the University of Malawi and our academic partners around the world – in consultation with stakeholders throughout the Government of Malawi and the international donor community – to develop our joint concept for the Institute for Child Wellness in Africa. The Summit on Child Wellness was envisioned as an ideal step to harness the insights and expertise of child wellness specialists around the world, to inform the development of a more detailed strategic plan. *What are the most important activities for the ICWA to undertake? Where are*

the most opportunities to impact global knowledge, and to develop more effective approaches to improving child wellness? What obstacles and challenges should we expect to encounter?

In preparation for the Summit, Accordia conducted extensive interviews and consultations with identified experts in the various disciplines relevant to child wellness, from esteemed institutions and organizations around the world. Response to Accordia’s concept for the ICWA was overwhelmingly positive, and a genuine consensus seemed to emerge about what was most needed to create new opportunities for advances – in academia, policy,

Malawi’s Honorable Minister of Health Catherine Gotani Hara formally opened the Summit with a statement of strong support for the proposed ICWA on behalf of the entire government. Among her remarks, the Minister said, “I am sure that in this very room, we have the collective capacity to secure brighter futures for our children, simply by bringing ourselves together around a common stand and focus.”



and practice – to improve the health and wellbeing of Africa’s children. In response to a set of observations and recommendations most frequently cited during interviews, Accordia drafted three tentative objectives for the ICWA.

The Summit’s agenda was organized around those draft objectives. Summit participants were asked to help Accordia explore them in detail, to ensure that the ICWA appropriately responds to the opportunities and challenges inherent in each.

INTEGRATE: Achieve new levels of multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration throughout academia, policy, and service delivery

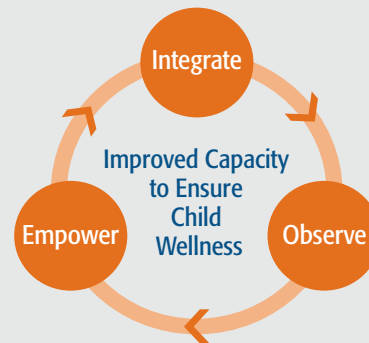
OBSERVE: Build stronger regional research capacity and increase the essential evidence base to enable the design and evaluation of novel integrated interventions

EMPOWER: Strengthen human resources throughout the entire system—from policymaker to researcher to frontline implementer—building a critical mass of local capacity to enable stronger, more sustainable solutions for child wellness

Accordia Key Principles

- Local ownership
- Upfront and sustained investment
- Strengthening existing academic institutions
- Private sector partnership
- Multi-institutional collaboration
- Contextual programs but uncompromised quality
- Focus on leadership
- Permanent solutions

ICWA Objectives

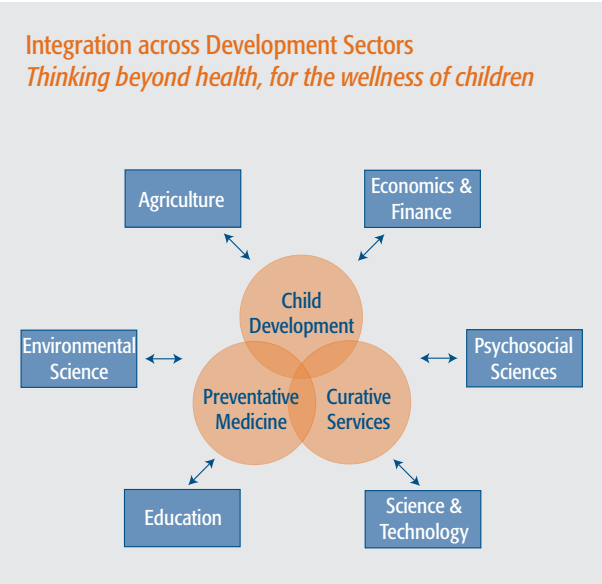


Objective 1: Integrate



Challenge: There exists today a growing recognition that efforts to improve child wellness should be approached in a more integrated manner... presently, there is inadequate collaboration between disciplines and across sectors, and insufficient understanding of how such integration can best be accomplished.

Child wellness is dependent on a diverse range of elements including basic health, physical activity, mental health, schooling, nutrition, financial support, social support and many other overlapping factors. While good health is a critical component of wellness, equally vital contributions come from the fields of agriculture, education, technology,



environmental science, psychosocial sciences, economics and other surrounding disciplines.

Despite the widely shared perspective that multi-sector integration is essential, professionals in various fields experience challenges to collaborating effectively with others - in spite of having shared goals and objectives. Specialists in the various disciplines surrounding child wellness use their own specific vocabularies, cite vastly different references and research, and use different methods and metrics. Communication challenges are further exacerbated by vertical funding streams, frequently shifting global priorities, and competition for limited resources... with the unintended consequences of redundancies, silos, separate focus on isolated development factors, turning natural allies into resource rivals.

Further, where better integration is attempted, it often fails, or encounters enough resistance to be discontinued. Too little is known about the human, organizational, and environmental factors that determine the success of collaborative cross-sector efforts – around any common objective, not just child wellness. Surprisingly, the science of integrated development has not gained much traction, despite broad consensus that it is needed.

Summit Counsel:

To illustrate the complexities of multi-sector integration in the domains of academia, policy, and practice, select Summit participants were invited to present success stories, share lessons learned, and to make informed observations. Within the university setting, a key presentation addressed organizational barriers between academic disciplines, and strategies to address them. Another lecturer described the effective integration of multiple policy domains within a single ministry, representative of a growing trend in many

countries to counter the complicating factors of political appointments, ministerial fragmentation, and resulting challenges in the budget appropriations process. A third presentation gave a practical example of a multi-sector program, stressing the need for community engagement at every stage of implementation.

During the discussion periods, Summit participants identified numerous overarching principles to effective integration in each domain, and thematic observations about the challenges. Among them:

- **Real-world integration versus artificial divides.** In any community setting, the needs of a child are inherently integrated and intuitively interdependent. Many of the most prevalent obstacles to effective integration of programs and policy result from a combination of sector-specific pursuits, resource allocation processes, and other factors. Recognizing this is a prerequisite to advancing more collaborative approaches.
- **Shared vision and joint ownership.** Clearly, shared ownership of common objectives toward improved child wellness, among individuals and institutions in multiple development sectors, will help foster better integration. Summit participants agreed that this is necessary but insufficient to improve the extent to

which multi-sector approaches to child wellness are designed, evaluated, and incorporated in programs.

- **The urgency of greater cost effectiveness.** In resource-limited settings, and given the constraints of today's global economy, the need for greater focus on cost effectiveness is acute. Children's needs far exceed the global resources available to address them with current strategies and interventions. The potential savings of truly cross-sector initiatives needs to be further explored for donors, policymakers, and especially the communities who incur increased costs when services don't overlap.
- **Standardization.** Shared terminology and the use of common language and metrics could facilitate better communication between disciplines and sectors.
- **Harmonized funding streams.** Integration efforts could well be served by reorientation of existing funding streams, consolidation of ministries, or the creation of cross-ministerial policies and initiatives.


An interactive exercise was designed to generate novel concepts for multi-sector integration around child wellness, and demonstrate the complexities of cooperating between sectors.



Summit attendees agreed that the creation of an Institute for Child Wellness in Africa, which conducts and promotes research of interventions to harmonize multi-sector integration, would provide an effective means for advancing the overall well-being of Africa's children while maximizing limited resources. Summit participants envisioned the institute documenting best practices in integrated delivery, analyzing new evidence to direct effective strategies for multi-sector integration, and generating pivotal new models to advance child wellness in Africa.

Challenges to success: While attendees agreed with the premise behind integration, they struggled to identify concrete examples or ideas for multi-sector programs. While it seems intuitive that effective multi-sector integration can enhance impact, create more lasting change and efficiencies, and improve cost-effectiveness... there remains inadequate evidence to substantiate its advantages and limited research about how such integration can be successfully accomplished.

To innovate in the field of child wellness, and identify new opportunities for impact and cost-effectiveness, efforts to better integrate sectors and programs must be intentionally prioritized. These integration efforts must be accompanied by a deliberate and scientific examination of what works and what doesn't, why, and what can be done to improve.

 **ICWA Response: Facilitate multi-sector integration and collaboration for the development of more effective child wellness programs at all levels, and explore the emerging discipline of Integrated Development Science.**

Improving child wellness in Malawi and the region will require collaboration across disciplines and between

sectors. Effective partnerships can take advantage of potential synergies and create critical cost-efficiency in new models.

As one of its first operating units, the ICWA will establish a Knowledge Hub to support common learning and linkages. One simple but fundamental component of the Knowledge Hub will be a *central repository* of information about regional programs and initiatives, global knowledge, and evidence of programs' impact. Researchers, implementers, and policymakers from Malawi and the region will have open access to this centralized information base.

The Knowledge Hub will also support other efforts to develop and harmonize *cross-sector indicators* of child wellness. The ICWA will create uniform systems of measurement and metrics, spanning multiple disciplines. This will establish common evaluation methodologies, allow program impact comparisons based on results, and eventually create best practices, leading to increased evidence-based policy decision-making.

The ICWA will provide *core research and support services* as a resource to implementing partners and researchers in the region. Experts will be available to provide support across a range of topics including research design, health economics, data management, biostatistics, epidemiology, evaluation, finance, and grants management. These experts will work to strengthen collaboration among disciplines and sectors and to build the knowledge base within the region, in support of innovation and improvement in child wellness programs.

Knowledge Hub: A central repository and resource center providing access to vital information and core research services that aid in developing more impactful programs

Objective 2: Observe



Challenge: Too little is known about factors affecting child wellness in resource-limited settings. Infrastructure constraints, faculty shortages, and other factors hinder the development of research capacity needed to support increased levels of locally relevant evidence generation.

Enormous gaps exist in the understanding of what works to improve child wellness in Africa. Most countries in sub-Saharan Africa have faculty shortages and infrastructure constraints that hinder research capacity. As a result, the vast majority of literature on child wellness derives from research conducted in North America and Europe. Broadly speaking, medicine is generalizable, although in its application, culture and context play a big role. In disciplines more dependent on the social environment, the relevance of key evidence from varied settings is far less valid. What may be the most effective interventions to improve child health and wellbeing in Africa are still not fully understood or tested.

Effective research in sub-Saharan Africa is limited both by deficiencies in sufficiently trained personnel and more practical impediments. Everyday challenges include inaccessibility of certain populations due to inadequate roads, lack of stable electricity sources, and unreliable or nonexistent internet access. The scarcity of experienced

investigators in matters of child wellness, and specialists in supporting disciplines like biostatistics and data management, is also at the heart of Africa's research constraints.

Without effective data collection systems, enhanced laboratory capacity, stronger support systems, and with limited international collaboration, research in sub-Saharan Africa will continue to be inadequate to inform improvement through policy and practice.

Summit Counsel:

Summit participants were invited to help explore the research constraints and opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa. Presentations included overviews of existing data collection and demographic surveillance initiatives through UNICEF and the government of Malawi, as well as innovative new approaches to surveillance and sampling. Another presentation provided an overview of a multi-country longitudinal study of factors affecting child wellness and how they are influenced by surrounding culture and community. That presentation was also accompanied by a discussion of the importance of ensuring community engagement early in the design and implementation of research, as an essential strategy to ensure successful and sustainable adoption of resulting programs.

To conduct effective research and build a body of evidence on factors affecting child wellness, participants suggested exploring fresh ideas and addressing the following issues:

- **Surveillance innovation and efficiency.** Innovative, cost-effective surveillance methodologies to monitor child wellness should be explored, including: "hot spot" focus, continuous cross-sectional surveys, and certain other hybrid sampling methods. These

SUMMIT 2013 FINDINGS

methods often require fewer resources than conventional surveillance techniques, without compromising the data. Other broad surveying techniques should be combined and rationalized where possible.

- **Context-specific understanding.** Research must become more context conscious, designed to answer locally asked questions, and inform locally made decisions. As we move beyond the medical and biological sciences to include more recognition of the role social sciences and other disciplines play in child wellness, culture and context will continue to become more important.
- **Deepen capacity and expertise in supporting disciplines.** Local expertise in statistical and survey methodology should be supplemented and supported, as well as expertise in: epidemiology, data management, health economics, monitoring and

evaluation, and information technology.

- **Quality management.** Quality control efforts should be put in place to ensure the integrity of data that is collected, particularly as it becomes increasingly aggregated as part of a more integrated approach to the study of child wellness.

Innovation
Lab

ICWA Response: Support and conduct essential research to expand the evidence base and build research capacity, inform national strategy and policy, and improve service delivery and integration in all sectors related to child wellness.

An important component of Accordia's mission is to help build research capacity in Africa. Accordia believes that African institutions can generate more culturally relevant solutions to locally identified challenges, and that such capacity in Africa will better serve the entire world.



The ICWA's primary operating unit will be an *Innovation Lab*, driving high quality and locally relevant research. Visiting experts will work alongside their Malawian counterparts to conduct crucial research on factors determining child wellness in the region. Together, they will design and evaluate appropriate multi-sector programs based on that evidence. Malawian students across a range of disciplines will receive world class research training.

Accordia will expand its International Academic Alliance to ensure the ICWA access to top academic experts in a variety of fields. These accomplished experts will contribute to the ICWA through a variety of mechanisms. Some will fill key fellowship positions in early years of the Institute's establishment, while others will complete shorter-term assignments to help build key capabilities among University of Malawi faculty and students. This supportive network will attract other leading experts from institutions around the world to conduct or support groundbreaking research. To attract international researchers and enable large-scale,

longitudinal studies, ICWA will create an extensive research platform in the form of demographic surveillance capacity. Researchers will enroll birth cohorts for longitudinal studies and pilot community-driven initiatives in a real-world laboratory setting. Accordia envisions that this will be a major draw for international collaboration and provide ample training opportunities for young Malawian investigators and practitioners.

Innovation Lab: A platform for multiple high-impact large-scale research programs to design and evaluate novel strategies and programs to improve child wellness



Objective 3: Empower



Challenge: Institutional and individual capacity for child wellness in much of sub-Saharan Africa is limited across the entire spectrum of research, policy, and practice.

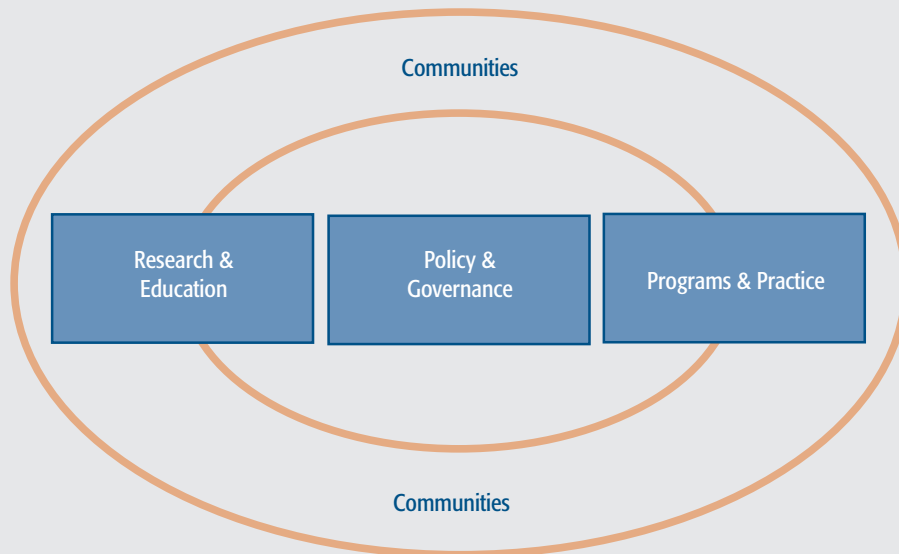
Recent improvements in child survival rates throughout sub-Saharan Africa are in great part due to the dedicated and talented individuals committed to improving the well-being of their communities. Yet critical shortages exist throughout the workforce in a range of positions and

professions essential to ensuring the health and well-being of Africa’s children.

These shortages apply in particular to academia, where faculty members are too scarce to adequately educate the number of future practitioners needed, while also pursuing research opportunities. This deficit in university leadership incubation contributes to the human-resource gap that extends throughout the system, affecting the domains of policy and governance as well as practice. Without a prolific academic sector producing relevant, local evidence, policymakers and other government leaders are left to base policies and guidelines on global norms that may or may not prove appropriate for the region.

The shortages are also keenly felt in the delivery of care. Inadequate government budgets and poor working conditions discourage professionals from service-delivery careers, particularly in rural areas. In Malawi, for example, there are just 21 pediatricians attending to the needs of

Empower: Strengthening Human Resources throughout the System



Malawi's 8 million children under the age of 14. Strategies to address shortages of medical practitioners include investment in medical and nursing schools, incentives to stay in resource-limited settings, and the innovative use of community health workers. Centers of excellence also play an important role, providing career paths and advanced research opportunities, as well as increasing the size of teaching staff and producing more graduates.

Specialists in the non-medical disciplines of child wellness are in even shorter supply. Early childhood development is an emerging field that is still being defined, even in more economically developed countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, it is less advanced as a field of study and practice, and too few efforts are underway to offer targeted training for prospective professionals.

One under-utilized source of human resources may be communities themselves. As efforts are made to improve the relevance, impact, and sustainability of new approaches

to child wellness, communities must play a more meaningful role in the process. Ensuring that problems are defined by those whose lives they affect, and that solutions are acceptable and can be embraced and owned by those communities, can result in truly sustainable change.

Summit Counsel:

The Summit featured presentations on innovative education programs that foster multidisciplinary communities of practice in child wellness. Speakers explored the role centers of excellence play in cultivating and retaining the region's human resources. These talks sparked discussions on ways to address broad capacity gaps throughout academia, policy, and practice. Summit attendees discussed approaches to engage policymakers and ways to integrate evidence from multiple sectors into national policy for greater impact. Attendees noted that gains realized through multidisciplinary collaboration and novel multi-sector interventions need to be operationalized to translate



Accordia is optimally positioned to lead the establishment of the ICWA having successfully enabled our African colleagues to establish the Infectious Diseases Institute in Uganda and the West African Infectious Diseases Institute in Nigeria. Accordia has a track record of facilitating high-impact, multi-institutional collaborations, which we will bring to this initiative in support of the University of Malawi, local Malawian leaders, and several vital Malawi government ministries.

good knowledge, innovation, and policy into action. The following strategic suggestions emerged:

- **Produce relevant curricula.** Develop appropriate multidisciplinary curricula and course structures to build knowledge and ability for problem solving in the local context.
- **Translate data.** Generate evidence from empirical research, field assessments, and global best practices to inform policy, prioritize action, and accelerate the implementation of high-impact interventions.
- **Inform the community.** Share evidence with the source communities – not just academicians and policymakers – to ensure the relevance of research questions in the first place, as well as the likelihood and sustainability of community action in response.
- **Deliver responsive, timely evidence.** Disseminate timely data that can shape and inform policy agendas, address service gaps, respond to policymakers' needs, and provide workable policy options.
- **Create diverse communities of practice.** Train academicians and implementers to think across sectors for more seamless and cost-effective delivery of services.

Global
Classroom

ICWA Response: Enhance human capacity for improved child wellness among academicians, practitioners, and policymakers.

As with many other pursuits, improving child wellness in Africa and other resource-limited settings, human resource constraints will need to be addressed at many levels. The

Institute for Child Wellness in Africa will create a *Global Classroom* to house a variety of initiatives geared toward strengthening the multidisciplinary field of child wellness, in Africa and around the world.

In the academic space, we envision that the ICWA will develop an *integrated child wellness curriculum* and host a series of courses or potentially even a multidisciplinary degree in child wellness, spanning a range of disciplines of relevance, to provide context and sensitivity to future professionals in all fields and careers from architecture to microfinance. The curriculum's design will focus on problem solving in the local context.

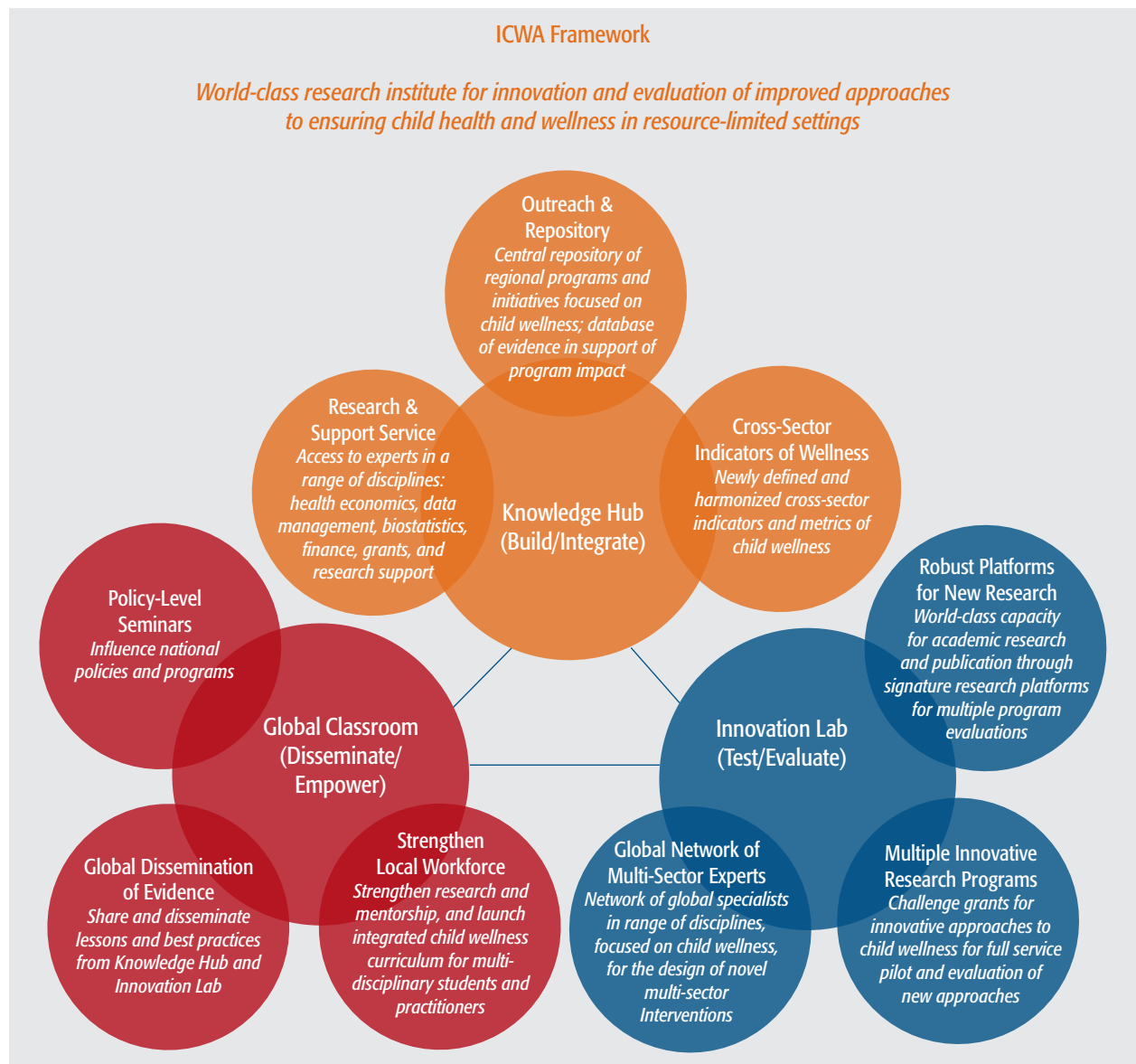
The Global Classroom will also ensure optimal dissemination of best practices, research findings, and policy implications coming out of the ICWA – to improve policy and government programs in Malawi and the region, as well as to advocate on specific issues with international stakeholders. Global experts will deliver local and regional *leadership seminars*, to improve the extent to which new research from around the world influences program implementation appropriately.

The ICWA's Global Classroom will also work specifically to formalize the science and study of integrated development, incorporating observations from linkages formed in the Knowledge Hub and findings from the Innovation Lab to essentially create a new discipline within the development space and improve the way multi-sector programs are designed and implemented.

Global Classroom: A collection of channels through which existing and emerging knowledge is disseminated externally, to inform and influence policy throughout the world, and to build better prepared professionals in a variety of disciplines

Conclusion

Accordia's vision for an Institute for Child Wellness in Africa is based on our confidence in the academic center of excellence model which has had such transformative impact throughout Africa, and on the strengths of the needs and opportunities related to child wellness – as described and defined by experts around the world, and explored in more detail by our 2013 Summit participants. Since the Summit, Accordia has continued discussions with our colleagues in Malawi, and consulted with many others around the world. The result is a detailed business plan describing the gradual launch of the ICWA, which will be available for comment by April.



2013 SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

The 2013 Summit on Child Wellness brought together 46 participants from seven countries including Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, and Nigeria. Local leadership representation was strong, with high-level delegates from five ministries in attendance as well as the vice chancellors of Malawi's three largest universities: University of Malawi, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Mzuzu University.

Individual attendees were selected for their diverse expertise in child wellness core and surrounding disciplines. Institutions represented included:

Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Makerere University
Michigan State University
Millennium Villages Project
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare
Ministry of Labour
Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
Mzuzu University
National Statistical Office
Obafemi Awolowo University

Oxford University
United Nations Children's Fund
United States Agency for International Development
University of South Florida
University of Malawi, Chancellor College
University of Malawi, College of Medicine
University of Malawi, Kamuzu College of Nursing
University of Saint Andrews
University of San Francisco
University of Zambia
Washington University



Summary of 2013 Summit Presentations

BASELINE AND CONTEXT:

- The Health and Wellness of Malawi's Children Today - *Charles Mwansambo, Ministry of Health*
- Research and Innovation for Improved Child Wellness: Current Initiatives at the University of Malawi - *Christopher Kamlongera, Chancellor College; Address Malata, Kamuzu College of Nursing; Ken Maleta, College of Medicine*
- Two Decades of Unprecedented Advances in Child Survival: What it Means for the Future Research Agenda - *Luula Mariano, UNICEF*
- Findings from a WHO Collaborative Cross-National Study - *Candace Currie, University of St. Andrews*

INTEGRATE:

- Overcoming Organizational Barriers in an Academic Setting - *Robert Serpell, University of Zambia*
- A Community-based Approach to Integrating Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health - *Mzondwase Mgoomezulu, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security*
- Designing and Implementing Effective Multi-sectoral Programs in Child Wellness - *Mark Manary, Washington University*
- Inter-ministerial Cooperation to Improve Alignment of Child Wellness Policies and Programs - *McKnight Kalanda, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare*

OBSERVE:

- Strengths and Gaps in Child Wellness Data Collection in Malawi - *Tiope Mleme, Malawi National Statistical Office*
- Surveillance Innovation for Improved Utility in Resource-limited Settings - *Anja Terlouw, Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Program*
- Young Lives, a Longitudinal Study of Childhood Poverty: an Example of Involving Community in the Design of Research - *Virginia Morrow, Oxford University*

EMPOWER:

- Building Human Capacity through Education Programs and Multidisciplinary Communities of Practice in Child Wellness - *Kofi Marfo, University of South Florida*
- Approaches to Integrating Evidence from Multiple Sectors in National Policy for Greater Impact - *Adesegun Fatusi, Obafemi Awolowo University*
- Centers of Excellence and their Role in Cultivating and Retaining the Region's Human Resources - *Alex Coutinho, Infectious Diseases Institute*

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2012 Centers of Excellence Summit: New Sources of Support, New Levels of Impact
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2011 Centers of Excellence Summit: Transformative Investments in Health
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2010 Infectious Diseases Summit: Return on Investment - The Long-Term Impact of Building Healthcare Capacity in Africa
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

2009 Infectious Diseases Summit: Building Healthcare Leadership in Africa
Kampala, Uganda





1825 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 630
Washington, DC 20009
www.accordiafoundation.org

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