



Listening to community voices in vaccine trial.



Using the Partnership for Research On Vaccines & Infectious Diseases In Liberia (PREVAIL), Vaccines Trail Community engagement as a case study.



Outline

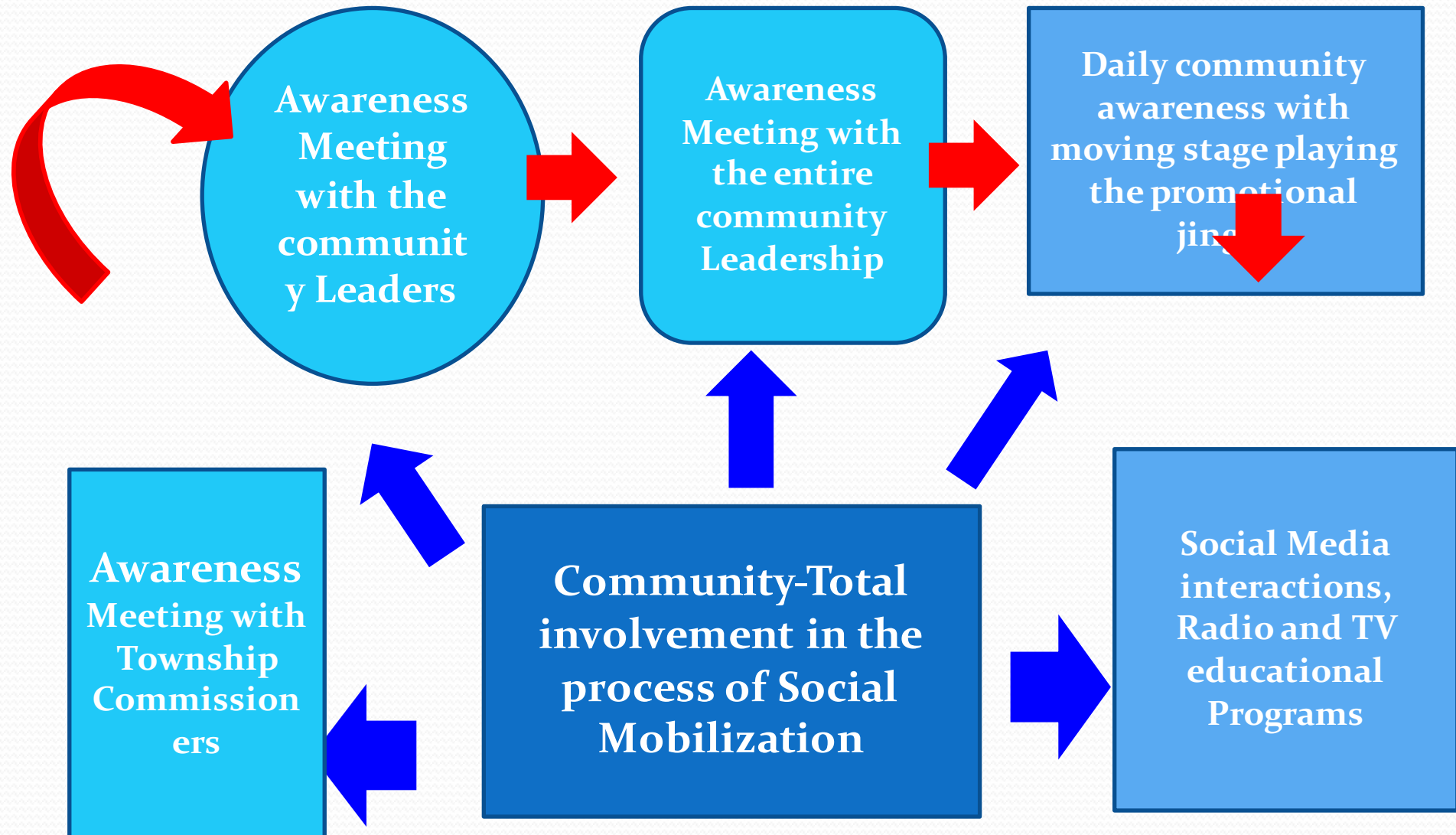
- Why is it important to engage community before conducting vaccines research.
- Cultural Challenges in conducting a research during an outbreak.
- When do you engage research participants.
- How do you engage research participants or community during outbreak.
- Lessons Learned
- Recommendations

Why is it important to engage community before conducting vaccines research

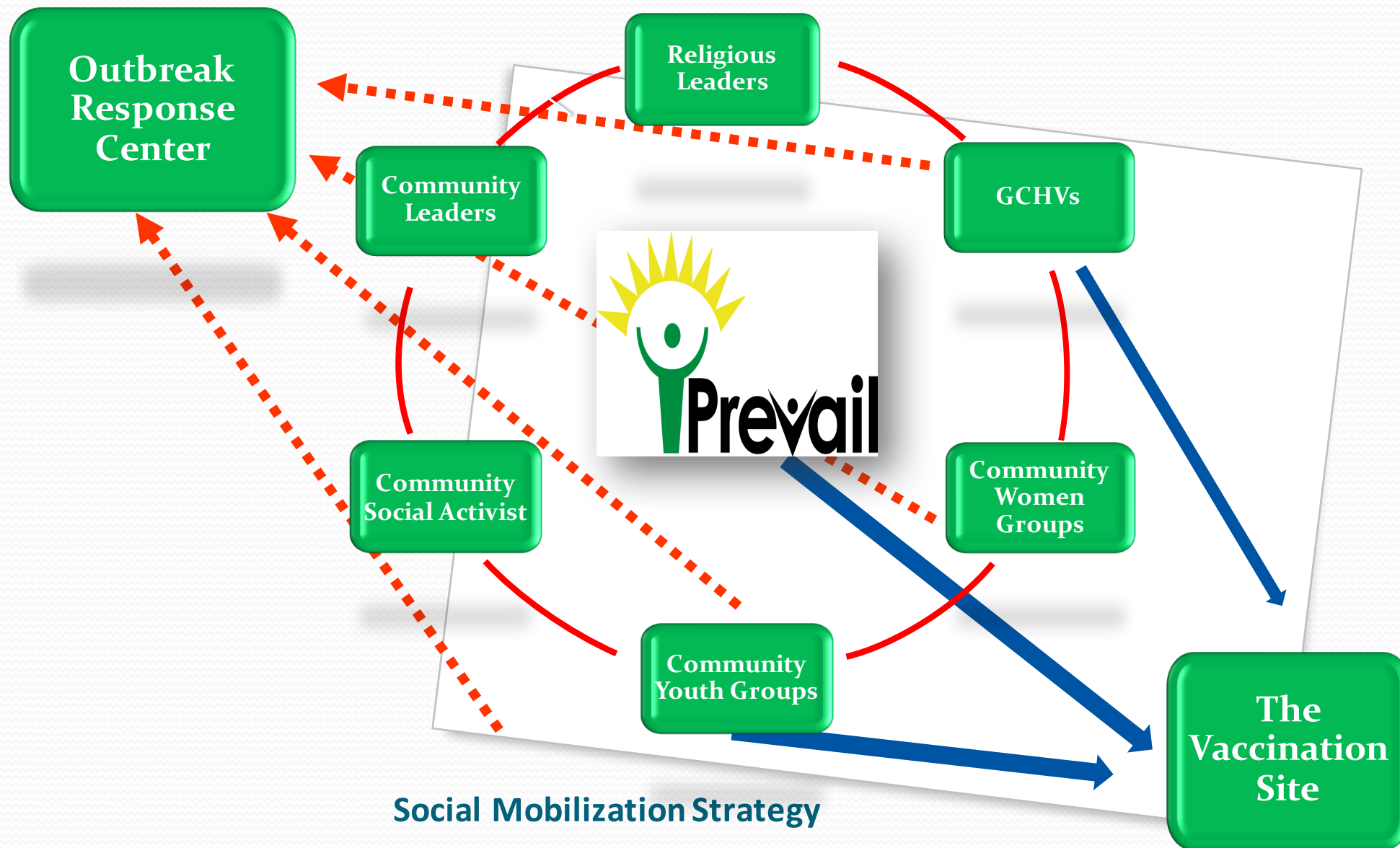
- ✓To mobilize community leaders and key stakeholders for community buy-in/support
- ✓Build TRUST and sustainable collaboration with the community
- ✓It champions a successful recruitment & Enrollment of potential participants
- ✓Ensure consistent adherence to follow up schedules.

- ✓Build sustainable collaboration with National/local stake holder
- ✓Set the base for a sustainable Research Program

How do you engage research community



The Cluster Ring Vaccine Strategic intervention



In The cluster area, is the consolidated social mob team of all partners providing full collaboration in Mobilizing and communicating the importance of the Ring Vaccine process to community dwellers.

How Do you engage research community

- **Advocacy:**
Advocate and mobilize key decision-makers, opinion/political leaders including traditional and religious leaders for a comprehensive understanding of study protocol (buy – in and support).



(R-L): Vice Governor Worjloh, Mayor Clara Doe-Mvogo and other opinion leaders/partners gathered at the launch of PREVAIL I – Redemption Hospital, New Kru Town

How do you engage

Community Engagement:

Community outreach to targeted population involving community leaders, religious and traditional leaders through community meetings and IPC, using posters, flyers, FAQs and other educational materials.



Community engagement in Cow field, Duport Road

When do you engage research Community

- Research Community plays a very important role in conducting research, they must be involved at the very beginning of the protocol development.
- They should also be engaged after the final completion of the protocol.
- They should also be engaged quarterly upon the beginning of the study, especially on updates and method used that will have any impact on their community.

Cultural Challenges

- Clinical Research as a new phenomenal in the Liberian Society
- Misconception of the word “TRIAL”
- Understanding of pre-clinical and clinical
- Stigmatization of study participants
- Study vaccine vs. Routine vaccines
- Social mobilization Vs. Ethical standards (mobile awareness, Radio programs, refreshment at community meetings -Voluntarism, informed consent, eligibility criteria and confidentiality)
- Vaccine associated side effects Vs. signs & symptoms of Ebola (major reason for contacts non compliance)
- Clinical Research as a new phenomenal in the Liberian Society

Lessons Learned

- We realized that all of these achievements could not have been possible without the involvement of National leaders, religious/traditional leaders, community leaders and other stake holders including the Participants themselves.
- Community involvement is key to the success of Clinical Research especially as a response efforts in any outbreak intervention.
- Respect for participants in Clinical trials builds sustainable partnerships
- ✓ Cultural context impacts ethical standards
- Transparency enhances trust.
- Early engagement minimizes suspicion & skepticism.

Recommendations

- Vaccines researcher must involve community in their early protocol development
- Vaccine administration should serve as a major intervention for future outbreak.
- Social Mobilization MUST be executed in accordance with locally acceptable cultural context/principles.
- Community based ownership should be encouraged to ensure cooperation and sustainability
- Guided capacity building for long term sustainability
- Researcher must always listen to community inputs as a means of building trust and collaboration.

THANK YOU!

