The Hear the World Foundation, external donors and audiology service development: Thoughts from experiences in Malawi

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Currently: 22 projects worldwide for better hearing

the Foundation supports projects with a focus on

• Services for children
• Programs for parents and families
• Prevention of hearing loss
• Professional training

October 13, 2015
22 projects on 5 continents

**Funding**
Support through funds

**Technology**
Provision of hearing aids, FM systems, cochlear implants

**Professional support**
Training of project partners
Sustainability: a key priority

• High quality evidence-based practice
• Long-term capacity-building
• Outcome-monitoring
ABC Hearing Clinic and Training Centre
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population benefit v. individual benefit

ie With large levels of unmet need and limited resource, should the aim be to provide:
some benefit (?) for large numbers
OR
optimum benefit for small numbers
2015 Mua School for the Deaf

Tested 154 children/1 teacher
grades Pre-1 through Standard 7
Age range 6 years through 20 years
Only 29% of the ears tested were a candidate for hearing aids
However, in June 2015, OTHER fit hearing aids to 93% of the children (ears) at the school
35% of the ears fit had no measurable hearing (anacusic ears)
Appropriateness of Hearing Aids Fit

- Appropriate gain/output for Loss: 9%
- Insufficient gain/output for Loss: 13%
- Could not be Determined: 78%

2015 Mua School for the Deaf
Appropriateness of Hearing Aid Fittings

Frequencies Meeting DSL Targets - OTHER

Frequencies Meeting DSL Targets - HFH
1. Are quality standards negotiable, depending upon national circumstances (e.g. unmet need, government support, numbers of trained personnel)?

2. How do we develop global standards to ensure quality is never compromised?

[Is the GCHH Best Practices Working Group addressing 1 and 2?]

3. Is there also a role for the Global Coalition to develop general guidelines on best practices for communication, cooperation etc. where there are multiple NGOs in a country, all apparently working to the same end?
Thank you, Hear the World!
From
Sound Seekers

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