

## **OP49.04**

### **The Global Health Exchange Fellowship, pilot programme**

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**Background:** The Global Health Exchange Fellowship was a six month pilot project aimed at making global health real through experiential learning for UK and Kenyan trainees in General Practice/Family Medicine and Public Health. The multi-professional and multi-cultural team had two consecutive placements in areas of deprivation, in a low income and high income country. The first was within a rural Maasai community in Kenya, and next was an inner city area in the UK.

**Methods:** Using Qualitative research methods, a health needs analysis was carried out in each community. Challenges to health, including socio-economic determinants, were identified and organised into themes by the fellows. These themes were prioritised by the communities using an innovative voting methodology developed by the fellows. Findings were presented to the local health authorities with the aim of informing resource allocation to improve health and reduce inequalities. and fed back to the communities. The Capability Approach was incorporated to encourage community ownership of solutions.

**Results:** Access to healthcare was voted as the number one priority in the rural Maasai community while Education was the top priority in inner city UK. Surprisingly there were a number of similarities in the results from both communities. For instance, Gender Inequality and Culture gave us significant concern as healthcare professionals, but these themes received the fewest votes in the “Very Important” category in Kenya (a low income country) and in the UK.

**Conclusions:** The Fellowship was a true exchange in terms of location, knowledge and experience. Through their participation, the fellows experienced remarkable personal and professional development. We learned that the challenges to health facing deprived communities globally are complex but similar, and require context specific solutions which take into account social determinants like culture and poverty. This calls for improved interdisciplinary collaboration to improve health and reduce inequalities.