

## **PS2.185**

### **Voting for better health in deprived communities**

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**Background:** The Global Health Exchange Fellowship is a pilot project, designed to make global health real through experiential learning for UK and Kenyan trainees in family medicine/general practice and public health.

**Methods:** Using Qualitative research methods, a health needs analysis was performed in two deprived areas- a rural Maasai community in Kenya and an inner city in the UK. Health issues identified were categorised into themes, which were prioritised by the community using an innovative voting methodology developed by the fellows. The same methods were applied in both countries. The voting method allowed each community a voice, in prioritising their health needs. Using the Capability Approach sustainable solutions were sourced within the community. Findings were presented to local health authorities to inform local resource allocation, improve health and reduce inequalities.

**Results:** The fellows learned a great deal about global health challenges in both high and low income countries. A methodology of community voting was established, providing insight to the true health needs of each community.

**Conclusions:** This methodology provides new understanding from the perspective of two communities on global health, including social determinants of health. There is remarkable potential for its widespread use. Similarities in themes in areas of deprivation in low and high income countries is noteworthy. In Kenya, access to health care was the number one priority. Had we taken an epidemiological approach, we may have found ourselves tackling specific diseases. However, the voting method identified the needs that were much closer to those of the community. This was particularly important in Kenya, where there was no data available for our community. In the UK there is a wealth of data, therefore this project sought to address the “Why” and the “How”, thus developing sustainable strategies to address health needs, whilst encouraging community ownership through Sen’s Capability Approach.