



My Child Matters Nursing Evaluation

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In the summer of 2020, despite an on-going pandemic, Sanofi Espoir Foundation and the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) conducted a qualitative evaluation of four selected My Child Matters (MCM) Nursing award projects. This first program evaluation aimed to determine the extent of the impact of the nursing childhood cancer projects in four low- or middle-income countries. The evaluation also sought to discover potential unintended or unexpected outcomes of the four projects to inform future nursing awards.

Nursing award leaders were chosen in El Salvador, Tanzania, Indonesia and the Central African Republic (CAR). Projects were on infection control in El Salvador, district-level nurse training on childhood cancer in Tanzania, and hospital staff nurse training in both Indonesia and CAR. Local professional qualitative researchers were employed in each country and together with the local awardees, identified key stakeholders (e.g., hospital administrators, parents, nurse learners, or nursing association partners) to interview (by phone or in person if possible) over a six-week period.

Local permission as appropriate was sought to conduct the evaluation and interviews were successfully performed with stakeholder consent. The evaluators analyzed the data and each produced a final report. Two expert pediatric oncology nurses from the SIOP MCM Nursing Task Force reviewed all four reports and created a harmonized summary of the findings.

In general, unexpected productive partnerships were identified with local professional nursing associations, extended hospital-wide benefits of having a specialized infection control pediatric oncology nurse, and quite strong nursing enthusiasm (oversubscribed courses) for pediatric oncology training. Stakeholder recommendations for project improvement included increased opportunities for clinical hands-on pediatric oncology nursing training, as well as improved and additional learning materials. In one country, as a result of the project partnership, the national nursing association planned to conduct childhood cancer orientations in all association meetings.

There was a request for project proposal writing training to take advantage of other funding opportunities. Overall, all four projects were considered as making a positive change by the awardees and key stakeholders. These findings provide evidence that even small funding can make a significant difference for pediatric oncology nurses, their patients and families as well as nursing associations, staff nurses and public health nurses in non-pediatric oncology settings in countries with limited resources.