
Anthrologica

Anthrologica is a research-based organisation specialising in applied anthropology in global health. We conduct formative and operational research across health sectors, focusing on the interface between the provision and uptake of health services, particularly in resource-scarce settings.

Our specific expertise lies in incorporating the needs and perceptions of intended beneficiaries into health policy and programming to ensure that initiatives are contextually relevant and that opportunities for improving health are maximised through the active participation of recipients. We work within the healthcare structures of the countries in which we operate, often in collaboration with local partners.

PROFILE - February 2015

Interconnected areas of work



Formative and operational research

We undertake both rapid ethnographic studies and longer-term fieldwork. In building a strong evidence base, we collect, analyse and apply empirical data to inform the design, content and orientation of health policies and programmes focusing on the relevance, appropriateness and acceptability of interventions.



Monitoring and evaluation

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation is key to rigorous measurement and reporting. We design strategies and suitable criteria for multi-levelled monitoring and evaluation that clearly target a programmatic cycle and reporting requirements. We also conduct independent mid-term reviews and end-of-programme evaluations.



Strategic partnerships

In addition to focused consultancies, we establish partnerships for longer-term engagement. This enables sustained collaboration, allowing us to contribute to an organisation's or institution's research, development and evaluation capacity, and to provide external advice and support when necessary.



Presentation of research

We publish in international peer-reviewed journals and regularly present at conferences and symposia. Anthrologica is a member of several professional bodies, and we aim to contribute to the arenas of international health, development and social science through our rigorous methods and the dissemination of our work.

Approach

The methodologies we use are designed to be relevant and proportional to the scope of the work, to be flexible and to correspond with continuing development and good practice. Our approach is rooted in behavioural and social sciences and we have proven leadership in the generation, use and application of qualitative and quantitative research to inform and evaluate on-the-ground development programming.

We employ a combination of approaches including in-depth interviews with key informants, focus group discussions, narratives and case studies, observation, workshops and participatory approaches. We also use mixed-methods, integrating qualitative and quantitative research. Open inductive techniques ensure that our analysis remains grounded and provides insight at community-, institutional- and policy-levels, enabling us to make strategic recommendations.

Our fieldwork design allows us to work in complex operating environments, using both international and national researchers. We follow accepted ethical procedures and prioritise the voices of the stakeholders and communities who are at the centre of our work.

Expertise

Dr Juliet Bedford is the Director of Anthrologica. She holds a Doctorate from the University of Oxford, where she is a Research Associate at the School of Anthropology. Juliet leads Anthrologica's Senior Research Associates and Research Consultants. We form dynamic teams that best fit the requirements of our clients on a project-by-project basis and bring together the most relevant technical and geographic expertise.

Anthrologica's central office is in Oxfordshire, UK, and our Associates and Consultants are based across Europe, Asia, Africa and the US. For further details of our work and full portfolio, please refer to the website, www.anthrologica.com or email info@anthrologica.com

Selection of recent work

UNICEF – Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea

Anthrologica is working with UNICEF to strengthen socio-behavioural research and analysis to inform their programmatic response to Ebola outbreaks in West Africa. Working at the regional and national level, this three-month collaboration will support recovery, resilience and health system strengthening across the three most affected countries. The analysis and integration of qualitative research will contribute to evidence-based Communication 4 Development and social mobilisation strategies, and will assess and document community-led innovation and good practices.

UNMEER – Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea

The Director of Anthrologica was appointed the lead anthropologist for the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. With the support of the Anthrologica team, Juliet provided technical support to the national governments and lead agencies, particularly regarding community engagement and social mobilisation components that cross-cut the pillars of the response. She delivered knowledge products including briefings, targeted reports and ethnographic insights, and contributed to a developing evidence base to guide policy and shape interventions and strategy. In Liberia, Juliet also supported the national emergency operation centre to create an enabling environment for qualitative data to complement and supplement routine epidemiological data used in the response.

UNICEF – Mongolia and Timor Leste

Anthrologica undertook formative research to inform integrated programming on reducing preventable child death from pneumonia, diarrhoea and newborn complications in Mongolia and Timor Leste. The research sought to define behavioural and social change outcomes by identifying a) barriers that prevent communities from adopting healthy behaviours and best practices for timely and appropriate care-seeking, and b) the positive motivations and triggers that contribute to an enabling environment and support communities to seek care. The research presented an evidence base to inform programme design and Communication 4 Development strategies and was amongst the top global research pieces awarded 'Best of UNICEF Research 2014'.

European Union – Somaliland

Anthrologica conducted the final evaluation for the EU funded programme 'Developing the capacity of Non-State Actors to support the rebuilding of the health system in Somaliland'. Implemented by the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET), the 36-month programme aimed to increase the technical and managerial capacity of non-state health training institutions and professional bodies to enable them to effectively contribute to the human resource development and governance needs of the health sector in Somaliland. The evaluation provided a comprehensive and critical analysis drawing on the best-practice criteria of the OECD-DAC to determine the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the programme.

Save the Children – Ethiopia

Anthrologica was commissioned by Save the Children in Ethiopia, to conduct operational research to provide a better understanding of maternal health seeking behaviour in relation to the socio-cultural environment in Amhara. The research identified and assessed factors (including gender) that contributed to the low uptake of maternal health services and made strategic recommendations focused on maternal newborn and child health interventions in Ethiopia, particularly around nutrition and breastfeeding in the post-partum period. The final report was utilised as an evidence-based advocacy tool by Save the Children and the Ethiopian Ministry of Health.

UNICEF – Vietnam, Rwanda, Bangladesh and Ghana

Anthrologica led the qualitative research stream of UNICEF's project 'Support for universal health coverage (UHC) with equity through health system reorientation and strengthening', funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. It sought to synthesise existing knowledge on how equity can be operationalised as a central objective of UHC and aimed to embed into UNICEF's District Health Systems Strengthening (DHSS) systematic methods to identify, assess and address non-financial access barriers as part of the causal analysis of priority bottlenecks, in a way that yields actionable data for district managers. The study focused on four high priority countries: Ghana, Rwanda, Vietnam, and Bangladesh.

Clinton Health Access Initiative - Zambia

Supported by the Zambian Ministries of Health and Community Development, Mother and Child Health, CHAI commissioned qualitative research to address the driving factors for loss of clients engaged in care in HIV/AIDS programmes. Collaborating with the Institute of Economic and Social Science Research at the University of Zambia, Anthrologica served as an expert review body throughout the project. The findings were operationalised to help increase retention rates, avert new paediatric infections and support Zambia to accelerate towards the global goal of ending mother to child transmission by 2015.

Anthrologica Profile, February 2015
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