National Health Advisors: Our Coproduction principle

About the National Health Advisors (NHAs) - Who are we?

We are a part of Doctors of the World (DOTW) UK, a medical charity that support people access healthcare through clinic services, an advice line, policy influence and advocacy work. In course of this work, DOTW identified that for the organization to truly represent and deliver the best outcomes for people accessing its services, there is need for people with lived experience to be involved in said work and decision-making processes. The National Health Advisor group was then established to promote meaningful engagement with individuals with relevant lived experiences in influencing improved healthcare access.

National Health Advisors are primarily migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum who have experience facing barriers when accessing healthcare or who are interested in promoting healthcare rights for migrant communities. The group is also open to anyone who would like to work towards an inclusive healthcare for everyone, regardless of their immigration status.

We are "**experts by experience**" and a lot of our work falls within the advocacy aspect of the DOTW UK work. We do believe that as experts by experience, we should be at the forefront of debates and policies about access to healthcare. This informs the focus of our activities and how we work as identified in this document.

NHA Work Strands - What do we do?



The work we do is currently grouped under three major strands, as represented in the figure above. This should be reviewed periodically as more members are added,

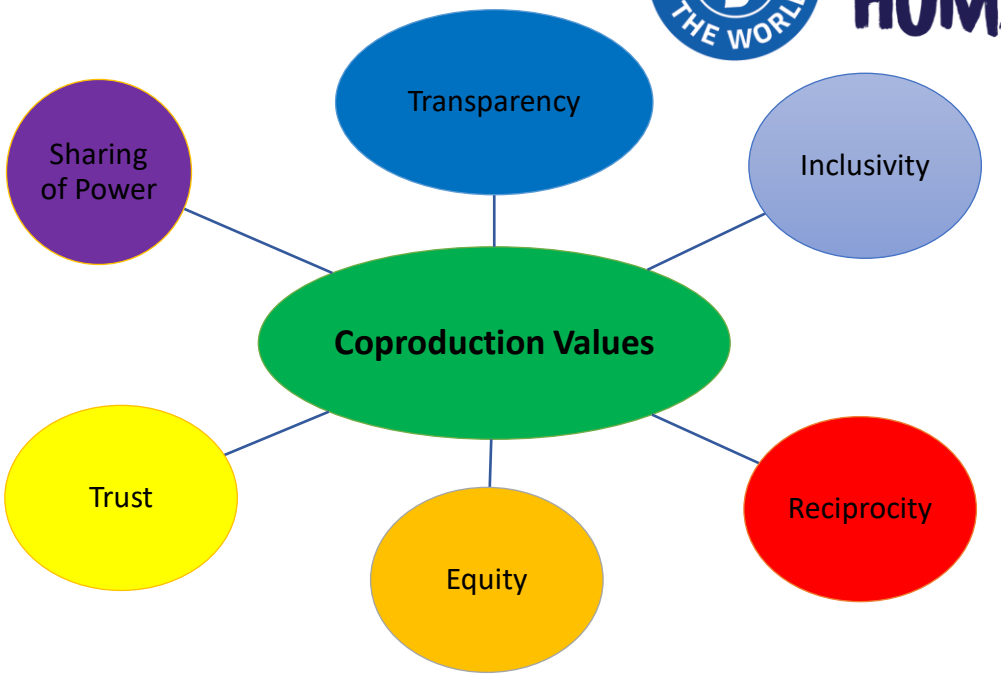
funding increases, and the work expands. Currently, the following activities which are focused on improving access to healthcare are carried out by the group:

- ✓ We carry out on-going training, re-orientation, and updating of NHAs on the health rights of migrants
- ✓ Training on why and how to effectively engage in advocacy and media work
- ✓ We prepare resources materials (documents) to raise awareness and enhance migrants' access to healthcare
- ✓ We deliver training sessions to migrant groups
- ✓ Strategic engagement
    - We influence the agenda setting and decision making at DOTW
    - We attend panels, roundtables, trustee boards to share views
    - We share our advice to improve Doctors of the World and other health providers' services
    - We engage with media and policy makers to make a change in perspectives and policies
    - We get involved in research projects to support with good evidence

We are always encouraging all National Health Advisors to do as many or as few activities as they are interested in. They are allowed to get involved with other relevant activities that can add value to our work subject to available resources.

Coproduction - Principle guiding how we work

We work with a principle of coproduction. This coproduction principle of work is an on-going process. It is a principle that shares the power between the organization we work with and us as experts by experience (National Health Advisors). The focus is to ensure benefits to all the people involved, so we follow these values:



1-Sharing of Power - We are willing to share power and responsibility to challenge the status quo. This means that the project is jointly owned and people work together to achieve a joint understanding. We are committed to practicing and improving co-production principles and ensuring continuous reflection.

2-Transparency - We are committed to ensuring transparency in our dealings with people. We use clear communication methods and tools.

3-Inclusivity - We are open to new ideas, encourage everyone to contribute, particularly new NHAs, and take what they say seriously. We make sure the group includes and involves all those who can make a contribution. We endeavor to take into consideration everyone's opinion, questions, queries and contribution into our decision making.

4-Reciprocity - Everybody benefits from working together. Expertise, time and effort of all NHAs is recognised.

5-Equity - We work to encourage diversity, equal opportunity for engagement, and involvement in projects for all.

6-Trust - An emphasis on building and maintaining relationships is key in our work. We promote joint understanding, consensus, and clarity over our roles and responsibilities. We also value people and seek to unlock their potential in every possible way.

Moreover, we work as an equal partner, putting the voices, views and insights of migrants at the center of services, policy influencing work, media, campaigns, and organization decision-making and agenda-setting. We refrain from adopting a certain

method of working, we are flexible and can work in different ways, but we will stick to the principle of coproduction.

For any questions about this National Health Advisors coproduction guide, please contact Hassan, the DOTW Policy and Advocacy Manager, Participation Lead, on HHussain@DoctorsoftheWrold.org.uk

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