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Practicum Site:  
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### **Engagement and Empowerment for Health Systems Strengthening and Universal Health Coverage: An Evidence Brief for Policy from WHO**

**Purpose:** My practicum was based at the World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. I spent eight weeks at WHO working within the Department of Service Delivery and Health Systems Strengthening to formulate an evidence-for-policy brief on community engagement and empowerment as a mechanism for universal health coverage, WHO's paramount strategic priority for 2030.

**Structure and Design:** Engagement is a cross-departmental area of interest heavily discussed in the 71st World Health Assembly and 13th WHO General Plan of Work. With an estimated 40% of worldwide health expenditures considered wasted due to inefficiency, engagement and empowerment efforts have potential for cost-saving while also being aligned with more holistic, community-centered care. The majority of the practicum timeline was dedicated to literature review of empirical journals, impact evaluations, cost-benefit analyses, and case studies. Following this search, activities were directed at comparing frameworks to be synthesized into a WHO-specific schema. The final weeks were spent devising a culminating document, complete with figures, tables, and relevant maps.

**Outcomes and Evaluation:** WHO's evidence brief for policy is a unique format that requires extensive research and development. The final product is a master document to act as a resource to inform policy and resource allocation. As of October 14, 2018, the document is still in revision processes for WHO publication.

Additionally, I was evaluated on my individual contributions to the project by my site supervisor.

**Lessons Learned:** Dedication to community-centered policies and practices are peaking the interests of large entities such as WHO, but without stronger efforts to build in-country partnerships, this interest will spark little systems change.

