PRIME Post | Field notes

East and Southern Africa

PRIME II

Nurse-midwife Grace Njunge, owner of St. John's Medical Services, with PRIME II's Florence Githiori and Rose Wahome.

Participants in a working group at the Kenya PAC evaluation dissemination meeting.

Kenya: Encouraging Results from PAC Evaluation

A USAID team evaluating the past two years of PRIME II's postabortion care (PAC) project in Kenya reported extremely positive results at a dissemination meeting held in Nairobi on May 30. The project began with a PRIME pilot initiative in 1997. During phase two, PRIME trained 155 private-sector nurse-midwives to provide PAC services at 120 facilities, 20 more than originally targeted. As of March, 1603 clients served for complications from unsafe or incomplete abortion have been successfully treated, 93% by PRIME-trained nurse-midwives using manual vacuum aspiration. As part of PAC treatment, 81% of those clients received counseling for family planning and 56% accepted a contraceptive method. Clients also received counseling for STI/HIV prevention (73.6%), breast cancer (48%), cervical cancer (38%) and nutrition (50%).

Project coordinator Florence Githiori has been the driving force, leading the Intrah/PRIME Nairobi staff's dedicated effort to improve women's lives through safe PAC services. Githiori was joined on the USAID evaluation team by team leader F.M. Mburu, Nicole Buono (USAID/Washington), Jerusha Karuthiru (USAID/Kenya), Grace Kihindas (Kenya Ministry of Health), Joyce Musandu (University of Nairobi), Rich Mason (Intrah/PRIME Chapel Hill), Rose Mulindi (Intrah/PRIME Nairobi) and Christine Ayuyo (Intrah/PRIME Nairobi). A final report detailing project achievements and strengths, challenges and next steps will be available in August.

Successful collaboration among PRIME II partners Intrah, EngenderHealth and PATH, with global partner Ipas, helped make this a sustainable program for improving reproductive health services in Kenya. Recommendations from the evaluation report will help shape PRIME's scale-up of PAC services during 2002-2003 in two provinces, Western and Coast, working with the USAID/Kenya AMKENI bilateral. Two forthcoming PRIME technical reports from the Kenya PAC project—an exploratory study of peer-support groups for supervision and a special study of the elements of the postabortion care model—will also be used to strengthen training activities and the transfer of knowledge and skills to the job.

Tanzania: Two-Year RCHS Workplan Completed

The Reproductive and Child Health Section of the Tanzania Ministry of Health (MOH) has completed its Quality Improvement and Recognition Initiative workplan for 2002-2004, and is awaiting final approval. Implemented initially in the regions of Iringa, Arusha and Manyara, the initiative aims to motivate providers to meet client expectations for quality integrated reproductive and child health services. PRIME II's technical expertise in Performance Improvement has proven vital to implement a systematic approach for building sustainable high-quality services while making sure that providers and the communities they serve retain a sense of ownership.

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As part of PRIME's assistance to the RCHS initiative, Dr. Peggy Chibuye, PRIME II Program Manager, and Fatu Yumkella, PRIME II Regional Evaluation and Research Officer, facilitated a three-day Zonal Training Center (ZTC) proposal development workshop in Morogoro, February 6-8. Participants included representatives of the MOH, ZTCs, USAID/Tanzania, the Tanzania Essential Health Intervention Project, the World Health Organization and other key stakeholders.

The proposal developed during this workshop will streamline the core functions of ZTCs within the MOH's multi-faceted health sector reform framework. The emphasis on these core functions will support quality improvement of district health services, particularly in the areas of reproductive and child health. USAID/Tanzania will use the proposal to provide direct financial support to two ZTCs—the Center for Education Development in Health in Arusha and the Primary Health Care Institute in Iringa.

In formulating the proposal, workshop participants drew on the results and recommendations of the Performance Needs Assessment of six ZTCs conducted by PRIME II in 2000. Participants reached consensus on the strengths and weaknesses of ZTCs, developed vision and mission statements, and identified opportunities for ZTCs. They agreed on strategies, including partnership and networking, to overcome weaknesses and threats to progress.

Tanzania: PAC Clinical Skills Curriculum Developed

As part of its commitment to improving maternal and neonatal health, the Tanzania MOH is rolling out a national postabortion care strategy. A *PAC Clinical Skills Curriculum* and a *Facilitators' Guide* have been developed in line with the National Reproductive Health Policy and the National Reproductive and Child Health Interventions, Service Standards and Guidelines. Grace Mtawali, PRIME/Intrah consultant; Dr. Isaac Achawal, Medical Associate, PRIME/EngenderHealth; and Dr. Zahida Quresh, JHPIEGO consultant, have been instrumental in the development of this curriculum.

Baseline data collection in the Lusaka marketplace.

Zambia: Baseline Data Collection Underway

A lively marketplace in Lusaka is one of the locations for baseline data collection activities that began in June to support PRIME II's new Consumer-Driven Quality initiative in Zambia. PRIME is offering technical assistance to the General Nursing Council of Zambia, which is developing improved family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) practice standards for nurses that reflect consumer needs and promote consumer-oriented care. Shoppers and vendors surveyed in the marketplace present perspectives of users of FP/RH services from a wide range of facilities as well as non-users of services. Data collectors are also reaching providers on the job and conducting exit interviews with clients at selected primary care facilities.

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