

## **Fistula Care *Plus***

Associate Cooperative Agreement  
AID-OAA-A14-00013

### **Annual Report**

October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020

Managing Partner: EngenderHealth; Associate  
Partners: The Population Council, Dimagi,  
Direct Relief, Fistula Foundation, Maternal  
Health Task Force, TERREWODE

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The annual report presents key accomplishments and activities for the seventh fiscal year (October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020) of *Fistula Care Plus* (FC+). EngenderHealth manages the project in collaboration with international and national partners. During FY 19/20, USAID supported fistula treatment and prevention services through the FC+ project in **four** countries—Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, and Niger. USAID also supported fistula activities in Ethiopia and Pakistan through bilateral funding.

Key accomplishments during the October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 period included:

### **Objective 1: Strengthened enabling environment**

- Establishment of partnership with West African College of Surgeons (WACS) to address workforce development needs for fistula eradication in the West African region
- Closeout of FC+/Bangladesh activity and handover of materials to government and civil society partners
- Presentation and participation in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) technical strategy meeting, “Averting an Impending Cesarean Section Disaster in LMICs”
- Global Virtual IDEOF Commemoration on May 23

### **Objective 2: Enhanced community understanding and practices**

- 44 in-person community awareness-raising activities/events conducted by program partners, reaching 15,551 participants; 15 mass media events reaching over 10.8 million people
- Initiation of new community outreach efforts in Niger with SongEs, including training for eight staff and identification of mass media and theater troupe collaborators

### **Objective 3: Reduced transportation, communications, and financial barriers**

- Development of three manuscripts from the Fistula Treatment Barrier Reduction Intervention describing the digital health innovation for fistula screening and referral, the development and validation of a fistula treatment barriers index, and qualitative findings describing stakeholder engagement in implementing the Intervention
- Hosting of an FC+ webinar on the Intervention, with partners Population Council and Viamo

### **Objective 4: Strengthened provider and health facility capacity**

- 13 sites supported by FC+ for fistula treatment and prevention activities; two sites supported through other USAID bilateral support
- 340 surgical fistula repairs and 15 non-surgical repairs supported through FC+; 331 surgical repairs supported by other bilateral USAID programs; this has brought the total USAID-supported surgical fistula repairs since 2005 to 55,791 and the total EngenderHealth-supported surgical fistula repairs to 43,430
- 315 sites supported by FC+ for prevention-only activities, no sites supported through other USAID bilateral support
- 15,347 family planning (FP) counseling sessions provided at supported sites, with FP services resulting in 9,933 Couple Years of Protection (CYP)
- 24 fistula surgeons trained in fistula surgical repair
- 223 health system personnel trained in non-surgical fistula repair and prevention topics

### **Objective 5: Strengthened evidence base**

- Two FC+ organized fistula community of practice webinars, including on integration of physical therapy into fistula treatment, with partners Panzi Hospital and Mama, LLC
- Publication of five articles in peer review journals; seven blog posts

- Publication and distribution of five briefs and summary documents of project activities in Bangladesh including the SST Toolkit, Community-Based Fistula Diagnosis Events, and documents describing national media coverage and program successes
- Presentation at conferences and technical forums including WACS 2020 Annual Conference