

Fistula Care *Plus*

Associate Cooperative Agreement
AID-OAA-A14-00013

Annual Report

October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

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

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EngenderHealth
U.S. / Washington, D.C. Office
505 9th Street NW, Suite 601
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: (202) 902 2000
Fax: (202) 783 0281
E-mail: vttripathi@engenderhealth.org

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Fistula Care *Plus* (FC+)
c/o EngenderHealth
505 9th Street NW, Suite 601
Washington, DC 20004

Telephone: (202) 902 2000
Fax: (202) 783 0281
E-mail: fistulacare@engenderhealth.org
www.fistulacare.org

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The annual report presents key accomplishments and activities for the sixth fiscal year (October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019) of Fistula Care *Plus* (FC+). EngenderHealth manages the project in collaboration with international and national partners. During FY 18/19, USAID supported fistula treatment and prevention services through the FC+ project in **five** countries—Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Niger, and Uganda. USAID also supported fistula activities in Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, and Pakistan through bilateral funding. EngenderHealth implements fistula prevention and care activities in Guinea with funds from other sources, including the Jhpiego-implemented, USAID-funded Health Services Delivery (HSD) project (activity ended September 30, 2019).

Key accomplishments during the October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 period included:

Objective 1: Strengthened enabling environment

- FC+ participation in the National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anesthesia Planning (NSOAP) Conference for High-Level Global, Regional, and Country Authorities and Funders and the Utstein Meeting on Indicators and Reporting Criteria for Surgery, Obstetrics and Anaesthesia Patient Safety
- Delivery of Fistula Repair Modules containing disposable supplies by project partner Direct Relief International – as of September 30, 2019 kits have been delivered to a total of 11 FC+ supported sites in DRC, Mozambique, Niger, and Uganda
- Three plenary oral presentations, 21 oral presentations, and 14 posters at the meetings of the International Society of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons (ISOFS) and the International Obstetric Fistula Working Group (IOFWG)
- 15 oral presentations and convening of the panel “*Cesarean section safety in low-resource settings: Ensuring quality in a context of rapidly increasing volume*” at the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) World Congress
- Production of two briefs for International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (IDEOF) on U.S. investments in fistula care and FC+ achievements for the first five years of implementation
- Collaboration with Harvard Program in Global Surgery and Social Change (PGSSC) to expand documentation and measurement of sequelae of prolonged/obstructed labor
- Co-sponsored International Consultation on the Regional Strategy for Obstetric Fistula Elimination in West and Central Africa
- Five presentations and inauguration of the Isaac Achwal Research Award at the joint Association of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians of Tanzania (AGOTA) and East, Central, Southern Africa (ECSA) College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ECSACOG) Conference

Objective 2: Enhanced community understanding and practices

- 1,246 in-person community awareness-raising activities/events conducted by program partners, reaching 149,585 participants; two mass media events reaching over 600,000 people

Objective 3: Reduced transportation, communications, and financial barriers

- Completion of endline data collection of the Barriers Intervention Study in Katsina State, Nigeria
- Dissemination events held in Katsina and Ebonyi, Nigeria in December 2018; and in Uganda in March 2019 through the National Fistula Technical Working Group
- Global dissemination of findings and lessons learned through presentations at ISOFS and Africa region conferences, technical briefs, and peer-reviewed journal publications

Objective 4: Strengthened provider and health facility capacity

- 24 sites supported by FC+ for fistula treatment and prevention activities; 9 sites supported through other USAID bilateral support
- 605 surgical fistula repairs and 6 non-surgical repairs supported through FC+; 597 surgical repairs supported by other bilateral USAID programs; this has brought the total USAID-supported surgical

fistula repairs since 2005 to 54,697 and the total EngenderHealth-supported surgical fistula repairs to 43,085

- 19 sites supported by FC+ for prevention-only activities, 44 sites supported through other USAID bilateral support
- 46,373 family planning (FP) counseling sessions provided at supported sites, with FP services resulting in 33,469 Couple Years of Protection (CYP)
- 29 clinicians trained in fistula surgical repair; 12 clinicians trained in pelvic organ prolapse (POP) repair
- 938 health system personnel trained in non-surgical fistula repair and prevention topics

Objective 5: Strengthened evidence base

- Publication of *“Caesarean section provision and readiness in Tanzania: analysis of cross-sectional surveys of women and health facilities over time”* in BMJ as well as a policy brief summarizing key findings from analysis of Tanzanian DHS and SPA data, commissioned by FC+ and executed by the London School for Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Publication of *“Removing barriers to fistula care: Applying appreciative inquiry to improve access to screening and treatment in Nigeria and Uganda”* on the research-to-action partnership to address fistula treatment barriers in Health Care for Women International
- Publication of a commentary in Lancet Global Health entitled *“Meeting the SDG challenge to end fistula and preventable childbirth-related morbidity and mortality”* which emphasizes the critical role of universal access to skilled care at birth
- Publication of six technical briefs: five summarizing project activities in Uganda including the Site Walk Through approach, research with Ugandan organization TERREWODE, partnering with local religious leaders, and piloting of work with adolescents using the Aflateen curriculum; and one brief on the 4Q checklist for fistula screening in Bangladesh