Prevention and Treatment of Obstetric Fistula

Guinea Fistula Care project
Project Goal and Objectives

2005-2007:
- Increase use and access to fistula treatment services
- Increase providers competencies in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and referrals of fistula clients
- Increase community awareness on the causes of fistula, their treatment and prevention options.

2008-2012: Contribution to reach anticipated results of the Fistula Care project
Our strategies and approaches

- Integrated to a Guinea health system
- A global vision which integrates prevention, fistula repairs, and the social rehabilitation of women living with Fistula

A project that stresses the fundamental causes of fistula; these causes are linked to socio-economic factors, which originate from poverty and the vulnerability of some part of the population.
Project Components

Fistula Treatment

Prevention

Social rehabilitation

Democracy and good governance
Project Integration and in-services

Fistula Repairs

Experts Committee
(National & International)

Prevention Subcommittee
(National Safe Motherhood Programm N MSR)

Rehabilitation subcommittee
(National Director of Promotion and Social Protection)
Project sites of Interventions
Partnership Network

- National Direction
  - Decentralization
- MoH
- Ministry of Social Affaires
- Kissidougou urban community
- EngenderHealth
- USAID
- GFMER
Strategies

1. Village Committees of protection of mother and child: a *strategy of proximity*
   - Identify pregnant women to assure they receive all 4 prenatal visits
   - Refer obstetric complications from time to time
   - Community awareness on the causes of fistula including early marriages, female genital cutting, and sexual violence.
   - Assurance of reliable community statistics: ANC, new born, maternal deaths
2. A training strategy in cascade with providers partnering with the National Safe Motherhood program for quality obstetric care.
Improvement of providers (in counseling, nursing care, anesthesiology, IP/Management of medical waste, COPE, etc.)

Equipment and materials

Training of local surgeons (national expertise and GFMER)

Clients’ nutrition
### Fistula treatments Statistics (January 2006 to December 2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of women who came in the 2 sites seeking fistula treatment</td>
<td>760</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of women who had fistula surgery</td>
<td>539</td>
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<td>Total number of women who received fistula intervention and recovered when leaving the health center.</td>
<td>392</td>
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<td>Success rate</td>
<td>72.72%</td>
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Partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs

- **Psychosocial Therapy**: social immersion of women who suffered from deep emotional problems. Fistula treatment should go beyond the chirurgical treatment and include the psychosocial treatment.

- Awareness activities and advocacy work by « satisfied clients » during the social events (marriages, naming ceremonies)
Partnership with urban community of Kissidougou and the National Direction of Decentralization

Fund from EH to stimulate the innovation

- Growth of institutional capacities of the community of Kissidougou
- Mobilization and secure of local financial resources using the “Town-market” approach (in 6 months, we receive a growth of 234% of generated receipts from the municipal market)
- Citizen participation
- Engagement of community to allocate some funds for the support of the implementation of fistula treatment (Waiting House for clients, support for activities by the village committee).
Assets and constraints

**Assets:** Strong governmental implication (Ministries of health, social affairs, Decentralization); Committees of operational piloting; support of communities; relevant strategies of training

**Constraints:** Large demand compare to supply; Standardization of process of certification of surgeons to do fistula repairs according to international criteria.
Thank you
**Goal and Objectives of project...**

**2008-20012:** Contribution to reach targeted results of Fistula Care Project

- Strengthening the sites capacities to contribute to the quality of repairs and the implementation of gynecological obstetric fistula and traumatic fistula;
- Understanding and practicing of fistula prevention, use of urgent services of obstetric care to support the integration of women with fistula in the health sites and within the community;
- Compilation, analysis and use of reports to statistic data to improve the performance of fistula services;
- Reinforcement of a favorable environment to institutionalize prevention of fistula programs, repairs, and reintegration