Reaching more clients with decentralized PAC services in Tanzania

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Tanzania Context

Incomplete abortion is:
- among the top 10 causes of hospital admission
- the main reasons for women seeking emergency care.

Unsafe abortion:
- one of the leading causes of maternal deaths
- causes 19% (DHS 2010) of all maternal deaths in Tanzania

In 2005, MOHSW and EngenderHealth Tanzania, began to decentralize PAC services to lower-level health facilities to increase the availability of PAC services throughout the country.
The Decentralization Process

Buy in by MOHSW

2005 - Pilot test in one district (Geita), 11 Facilities –
Seed funds from USAID/Washington

2007/09 - Scale up 16 districts of Mwanza and Shinyanga (207 facilities)
Mission Funding

2013/15 - Scaled up in 239 facilities
Mission Funding
Program Interventions to decentralize PAC services

Facility:
- Assessed feasibility, acceptability and cost to deliver PAC services in lower level facilities
- Minor renovations to address infrastructure gaps
- Trained 32 TOTs and 952 service providers on PAC and the use of manual vacuum aspiration (MVA) to treat incomplete abortion
- Conducted whole-site orientation to involve all staff in the introduction of PAC services

District Health Management Teams:
- Oriented on PAC approach
- Trained on-the-job follow-up and supervision for PAC
- Lobbied them to plan/support the purchase and distribution of MVA kits
Community:

- Created community partnerships and fostered local “champions” to create community awareness and acceptance of services with emphasis on 3 Delays;
  - Recognizing a problem
  - Deciding to seek care at the appropriate time
  - Receiving care at the HF
Achievements of Decentralization

Policy change

- Nurse midwives to provide MVA
- MVA kits included in the essential drugs/supplies list
- MVA Kits in Comprehensive Council Health Plans (CCHPs) and procured through MSD

Developed national documents

- PAC guidelines
- PAC curriculum and training materials
Achievements of Decentralization, cont’d

Introduced PAC in 239 sites;
- 15 of hospitals
- 67 health centers
- 157 dispensaries

Increased access for PAC services at lower level facilities;
- Decongested hospitals
- Increased FP counseling and uptake for PAC clients
Saving Lives and Reducing Unsafe Abortion

PAC client Resuscitation

Family Planning counseling before discharge
Demographic Profile of PAC Clients – 2005 to 2014

- 60% between ages of 25 and 49
- Over 80% are married or in union
- 59% are parity 3 and higher
- 56% of clients have up to 12 weeks gestation age
Trends in PAC clients at health facilities (2005 to 2014)
Total Clients served, Total Counseled and Total Accepted FP Method – 2005 to 2014

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Client Load</th>
<th>Total Counseled on Fp</th>
<th>Total accepted a Method</th>
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Method Mix For Clients – 2005 to 2014

- Pills: 6465
- Injectable: 5206
- Condom: 3248
- Implant: 441
- Minilap: 440
- IUCD: 303
Program Implications

Decongest hospitals and expand access to rural women, though attention should be paid to not overstretching the health system to generate demand for services where it is difficult to sustain them.

Effective training of eligible service providers with counseling skills, more clients were discharged with a FP method approx. 85%.

Community involvement through meetings and advocacy increased awareness and reduction of stigma in society and recognition of the problem for timely management of PAC cases.

Whole-site training to orient all staff at the health facility on the new services so as to support provision of quality services hence meeting both provider and client needs.
Lessons Learned

Government ownership

Knowledge and information about PAC leads to active Community participation and involvement, and should be continuous

Service provider training has a direct impact on FP service uptake for PAC clients

Multiple programs implementation at community level can compliment each other

Challenges

Stock-outs of contraceptives as a result of Forecasting and ordering

Referrals

Inadequate integration with other reproductive health services (HIV/AIDS, STI etc)

Slow process of scaling up to other/new areas
A PLANNED PREGNANCY IS A PLEASURE IN THE FAMILY.