

SYNTHESIS REPORT

Scaling up Access to Misoprostol at the Community Level to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes in Ethiopia, Ghana, and Nigeria

Findings from an Evaluation of Different Models



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Review of Models

Nigeria:

- Community systems for education and advance distribution of miso
- Involvement of TBAs and community leaders

Ethiopia:

- Lay youth mentors and CHEWs worked together to raise awareness
- Misoprostol brought to women during home deliveries

Ghana:

- Lay workers did home outreach and education
- Advance provision of miso by midwives during ante natal care visits

Misoprostol for PPH at the community level

- Practical approach to a real problem
- Recognizes that many women still give birth at home
- Successfully moves beyond conventional medical paradigm
- Important “safety net” on the continuum of care

Challenge: Mistrust of women

- Reluctance to give to women in advance
- Doubt that women can safely store and use drug
- Fear that women would use for abortion

I support giving women the tablets because things do not go as planned, they go God's way.

- Ethiopian Woman

Challenge: Involving lay workers

- Both an obstacle and an opportunity
- Mistrust and competition between levels of providers
- Concern about use for labor induction



Challenge: Product issues

- Packaging
- Consistent supply
- Product quality



Lessons Learned

- Misoprostol can save lives of women who deliver at home
- Advance distribution of misoprostol is the most successful approach but mistrust is stalling progress
- Distribution through existing systems provides more scale up potential
- Lay workers can have an important role
- Product issues can hinder scale up
- The quality of facility services needs to be improved

A drug as important as miso should be accessible by all and not just in specific communities. We want scale up now because the drug saves lives.

—Queen Mother, Amansie West District

Reports Online

Evaluation Synthesis Report:

https://www.macfound.org/media/files/14.b_SynthesisFINAL.pdf

Magnesium Sulfate Report:

<https://www.macfound.org/press/publications/evaluation-pre-eclampsia-and-eclampsia-treatment-nigeria/>

