

# ***ENHANCING SKILLED DELIVERIES THROUGH MATERNAL SHELTER***

***Nachola dispensary, Samburu county, Kenya***

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# Outline

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- The problem
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# Background

		Kenya	Samburu County
	Population	45M	266,096
	Women of reproductive age	24%	21.9%
	Antenatal care (4+ visits)	58%	30.8%
	Skilled attendant at Deliveries	62%	19.8%



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# Cont...

- Samburu County lies within the Arid and Semi-Arid parts of Kenya , situated in the northern part of the Great Rift Valley
- The county is divided into three administrative units (Sub-counties); Samburu Central, Samburu East and Samburu North
- Nachola dispensary is located in Samburu North Sub-county and has a catchment population of 3,842
- International Medical supports the health workers in formation of mother to mother support groups for peer learning on issues of health and maternal infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN)

# Cont...



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# The Problem

- In n Samburu, only 19.8% of women seek skilled birth attendance, a proportion lower than the national rate which is at 62%.
- This is exacerbated by various reasons including
  - Inaccessibility of health facilities due to long distances, poor roads, insecurity;
  - inadequate maternity units,
  - influence of TBAs and early women,
  - poverty
  - cultural requirements e.g birthing position,

# Innovation:

## Nachola dispensary “maternal shelter”

- In 2013, Nine mother to mother support groups (MtMSGs) members identified lack of a maternity as one of the major problems affecting women in Nachola Village, with the closest health facility being twenty kilometers away.
- They took the initiative to construct a ‘mama’ shelter adjacent to Nachola MoH supported dispensary which lacks a maternity unit .
- The mama shelter would be a waiting home for a mother who is about to deliver so that she can easily access the services of a nurse.
- The mothers mobilized group members to contribute locally available construction materials

# Contd:

In 2013, International Medical Corps supported establishment of Nachola community unit where 30 community health volunteers were trained on nutrition and health components, these volunteers were involved in educating the women on the importance of seeking services of a skilled attendant during birth, as well as strengthening referral systems for malnourished cases, skilled deliveries, immunization and growth monitoring for children.

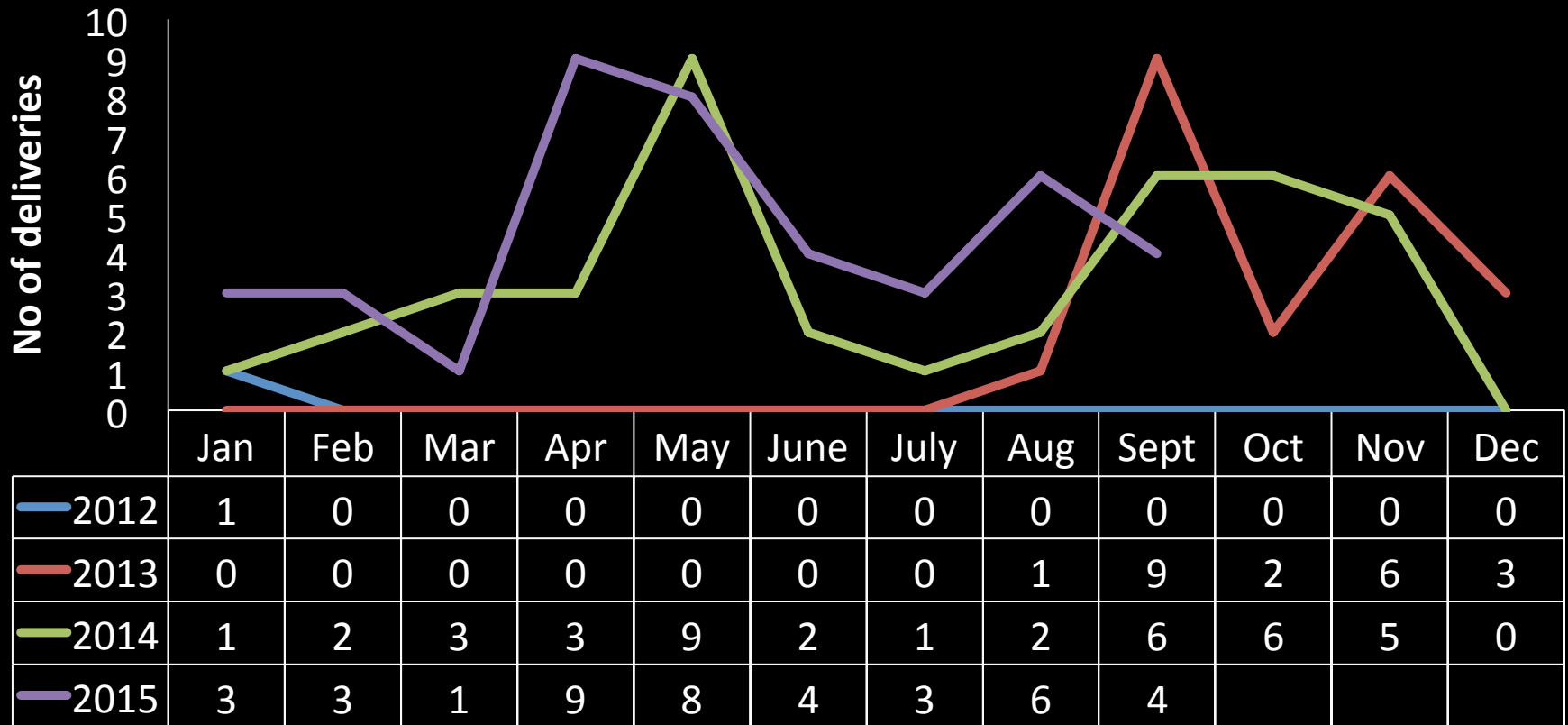


Nachola Mama shelter



# Results:

**No of Skilled Deliveries, Nachola dispensary (2012-2014)**



# No of skilled Attendant Deliveries per year

Year	No of skilled Attendant Deliveries
2012	1
2013	21
2014	40
2015 September	41
Total	103

# Other benefits

- The shelter provided an opportunity for the trained community volunteers and the nurses to sensitize mothers on breastfeeding, immunization and family planning.
- Other facilities within and outside Samburu have duplicated the same initiatives and successes are being noted.

# Lessons Learnt

- Women are concerned about their health and the health of their children (this being a community initiative)
- Although the facility lacks maternity unit, the maternal shelter initiative has increased the access to skilled services.
- The maternal shelter meets the cultural requirements and allows women to deliver in a more familiar position e.g birthing while squatting, the women light fire to keep the shelter warm
- The maternal shelter has improved the community attitude and perceptions towards skilled health care services e.g initially, most women would not be assisted to deliver by a male nurse

# Conclusion

- The maternal shelter is a useful intervention to increase skilled deliveries in remote areas and could be easily replicated in other settings
- There is a room to improve the quality of the shelters to provide more comfort to the mothers

# Reference

- DHIS
- Samburu KAP survey 2013
- Samburu Nutrition Causal Analysis 2014
- Samburu County Intergrated Development Plan

# Acknowledgement

- Mr Francis Kinoti, the Nurse in-charge, Nachola Dispensary, Samburu county
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*THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!*

Questions Time!