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HEALTHY MOTHERS
HEALTHY WORLD




PREVENTING MATERNAL AND NEWBORN DEATHS

Prioritizing Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care in Tanzania

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The Problem

- 8030 women die every year due to complications related to childbirth
- 23% of deaths are caused by severe bleeding
- It takes 2 hours for a woman who is bleeding to die if not attended
- In some regions such as Rukwa it will take 5-7 hours by car to reach a hospital
- Health centres which are nearer to women did not provide life saving services



The Promise made by Government of Tanzania

50% of health centres provide comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care. Among others, this includes safe blood transfusion & C-sections

- One Plan 2008
- Every Woman, Every Child 2011
- Sharpened One Plan 2014







Gathering Evidence from Rukwa

- Not one health center was providing CEmONC
- Only 1 was providing blood transfusion
- Only 2 were providing C-sections
- Health centers lacked critical infrastructure, equipment, supplies, and health workers

“There was no electricity in the operating theatre and we used our mobile phones to conduct the C-Section. The mother and baby survived”

“A woman was brought here in shock. We had no blood and we referred her to Namanyele Hospital and she went with a public boat but she died on the way”



The Barriers



1. Lack of district and regional plans and budget
2. Lack of reliable information on availability of CEmONC
3. Weak social accountability
4. Long distance and lack of reliable transport



The Campaign



Mobilized citizens and amplified demand for accountability

- 16,500 petition signatures gathered by WRATZ & village health teams
- Activated community leaders to reach out to citizens
- 96 members of parliament signed petitions to demand CEmONC



The Campaign



Supported policymakers to respond to citizen demands

- Provided data and technical assistance to CHMTs
- Persuaded Prime Minister to change budget guidelines
- Reviewed budgets against health facility findings
- Monitored disbursements to districts

All District Councils must “allocate an adequate budget for CEmONC, including operating facilities, a safe blood supply, and adequate equipment and human resources.”
– Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, March 2014



Prime Minister gave directives to all councils to establish a budget line for CEmONC



Rukwa Results

District leaders
use health facility
assessments to
plan and budget
for CEmONC
gaps

Health facilities
make
improvements;
WRATZ monitors
progress

50% of health
centers in Rukwa
provide CEmONC

WRATZ pushed us to reach this point and I want to see more than 50% of our health centers providing CEmONC. I want all of our health centers providing CEmONC.

– Regional Administrative Secretary Mr Smythies E. Pangisa



National Results

- 169 districts prioritized and allocated specific funds for CEmONC
- National policymakers prioritize MNH in plans and budget
 - 96 MPs petition for CEmONC
 - Big Results Now Framework
 - \$48 million USD in new funding for maternal health supplies
- Scaling Up
 - Conducted assessments in Arusha Region
 - Interest from UNICEF, CARE International & other member organizations to integrate into their plans in other regions



Building Blocks of National Success

Relationships/ Access

- “Operating with one foot inside the system”

Credibility

- Involved in developing targets and priorities
- PGSM
- Leader in Accountability

Partnership

- A network with an interest and concern in MNH
- Media – leveraging pro bono support



The Impact



“I had a C-section at this facility, near my home. Before 2013, I would go to regional hospital, which is very far and costly”

- 28 year old from Sumbawanga Rural in Rukwa



The Impact



“I was confident to give birth here at this dispensary, because I knew that in case of a problem they would take me to Laela Health Centre, which have started doing operations and giving safe blood”
- Young woman in Rukwa



The Impact



More women have access to life-saving services that were previously inaccessible

59 women received blood transfusions & C-sections in upgraded facilities.

Entire communities are benefiting from improvements at health centers.