




PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS  
ACHIEVING THE Maputo PLAN OF  
ACTION

**PCC Meeting  
DAKAR, SENEGAL  
27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER -**

# Access to safe motherhood and child survival services

## **Key activities implemented**

- Training of doctors, nurses and midwives and provision of equipment for emergency maternal and newborn child health (EMNCH) care nationwide
- providing basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care (BEmOC and CEmOC) on a 24 hour basis
- The revision of The National RH Policy 2007-2014 to incorporate emerging


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- Presidential pronouncement for maternal care for all Gambian women


# Achievements

- Reduction of referrals due to maternal and RH emergencies
- Reported cases of incidences of malaria in pregnancy have reduced through focused ante natal care newborn child health (EMNCH) care nationwide.
- Access to skilled attendance at birth; with timely access to effective emergency obstetric care in the event of a complication

# Improvement in Reproductive Health Commodity Security

- Almost all the service delivery points are now offering at least four RH services (ANC, FP, infant welfare service & labour and delivery, & blood transfusion)
- The RHCS logistics management tools were reviewed and updated in order to improve the Logistics Management Information System
- building the capacity of health personnel to do forecasting of RH commodities

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- Family planning (FP), and adolescents/youth Sexual and RH issues are being addressed both at the levels of the institution and the communities bringing about an unexpected uptake of FP services
    - safe motherhood outcomes; e.g., reduced numbers of abortions and unplanned pregnancies
  - Family planning services and prevention of parent to child transmission (PPTCT) are well-integrated into RCH services; and capacities have been built in these areas accordingly.

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- Health facilities are also supplied with laminated referral protocols, referral in-registers and referral-out registers
  - training of staff in the use of the protocols and guidelines. In addition, early detection and management of pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH) during the antenatal period, has led to reduced incidences of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia; a major cause of maternal morbidity and death
  - timely referrals of cases by TBAs and community based health workers, who, through training, are now able to detect danger signs in pregnancy and childbirth

# Improved access to HIV Prevention and Youth-Friendly Information and Services at All Levels

## Creation of Youth-Friendly Centres

- ✓ provides a comprehensive one-stop-shop for youth-friendly services by offering a range of activities for youths; e.g., RH services, VCT and screening and management of STIs in addition to recreational and other facilities in a youth-friendly atmosphere
- ✓ training of peer health educators in and out of schools, and the provision of life skills education have contributed to the reduction in anti-social behaviours such as substance abuse and baby dumping, teenage pregnancy and early marriage





## **Increase Uptake of VCT Services**


- The number of RH facilities that have integrated VCT into their service provision has increased
- The availability of this service has enabled couples to know their HIV status and get timely treatment for other STIs

# Others

- High level political commitment
- Community participation in RH & SRH programmes
- Male involvement in RH issues
- FP commodities have been included in the essential drugs


# constraints

- Inadequacy of resources (financial, material and human) reduced the amount of programme inputs, geographical coverage and efficiency of service delivery
- Structural barriers (cultural denial and resistance)
- Low socio-economic and political status of females

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- Poor road networks impact negatively on the hospital referral system leading to delays that are responsible for high maternal morbidity and mortality
  - High staff attrition rates due to low morale and poor remunerations
  - Lack of data has made decision making and policy formulation difficult
  - Difficulties in mobility at community

# lessons Learned

- Use of Traditional Communicators to disseminate messages on maternal and child health has resulted in early bookings for ANC and more women now know the danger signs during pregnancy
- Increased male involvement in maternal and child health issues had led to marked reduction of mothers dying of ante-partum or post-partum haemorrhage and early decision-making in seeking help when obstetrical problems emerge

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- The Confinement Leave Policy gives six months of maternity leave has led to increase in exclusive breast feeding which is important for child and maternal health

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish a Comprehensive Programme of Data for Development
- Diversification of funding sources
- Intensification of capacity building of health personnel and facilities
- Creation of incentives for health workers