Health Workers: Vital to Family Planning & Reproductive Health

Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network Meeting

Kampala, April 2011
Lives in the balance...
people never see a skilled health worker during their lives

More people around the world now have access to mobile phones than to health care providers.
In 2006 the World Health Organization identified 57 countries with a health workforce crisis.
Five years later
all 57 countries remain in crisis.
Sub-Saharan Africa has 25% of the global burden of disease...

but only 4% of the world’s health workers.

(Source: WHO, World Health Report, 2006.)
The crisis in East Africa

[Bar chart showing the number of doctors/nurses/midwives per 1,000 population for select countries in East Africa and the minimum WHO standard.]

- Burundi
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- WHO minimum
Flo: The beleaguered health worker

Too few

Inequitably distributed

Inadequately educated

Poorly supported
Health workers save lives.
More health workers, better health outcomes

(Source: WHO, World Health Report, 2006.)
Rural populations have less access to health workers....

![Bar chart showing doctors per 1,000 people in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, and Uganda.]

Source: World Bank, Reducing Geographical Imbalances of Health Workers in Sub-Saharan Africa
...which affects health outcomes

% births attended by health professional

Source: Demographic and Health Surveys: Ethiopia 2005; Kenya 2008-09; Rwanda 2007-08; Uganda 2008
...which affects health outcomes

Modern Method Contraceptive Prevalence

![Bar chart showing modern method contraceptive prevalence by country and rural/urban areas.]

- **Ethiopia**: 40% (Rural), 45% (Urban)
- **Kenya**: 35% (Rural), 48% (Urban)
- **Rwanda**: 30% (Rural), 40% (Urban)
- **Uganda**: 25% (Rural), 35% (Urban)

*Source: Demographic and Health Surveys: Ethiopia 2005; Kenya 2008-09; Rwanda 2007-08; Uganda 2008*
Solutions to the health worker crisis

Mobilize leaders
Mobilizing leaders

HUMAN RESOURCE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
Solutions to the health worker crisis

- Mobilize leaders
- Expand education
- Deploy where needed
- Strengthen management
Educating health workers

ETHIOPIA
Massive expansion of health extension workers

MALI
The right health worker trained in the right place
Solutions to the health worker crisis

- Mobilize leaders
- Expand education
- Deploy where needed
Deploying health workers

**RWANDA**
Community health workers

**UGANDA**
Rural health worker attraction & retention
Solutions to the health worker crisis

- Mobilize leaders
- Expand education
- Deploy where needed
- Strengthen management
Managing health workers

KENYA
• Human Resource Information System
• Emergency Hiring Program

TANZANIA
Zanzibar worker productivity improvement
Solutions to the health worker crisis

- Mobilize leaders
- Expand education
- Deploy where needed
- Strengthen management
Agenda for action
Advocacy | Assets | Accountability
Don’t keep Flo waiting!