



Prevention and Treatment of Obstetric Fistula

Guinea Fistula Care project





Project Goal and Objectives

● 2005-2007:

- Increase use and access to fistula treatment services
- Increase providers competencies in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and referrals of fistula clients
- Increase community awareness on the causes of fistula, their treatment and prevention options.

● 2008-2012: Contribution to reach anticipated results of the Fistula Care project



Our strategies and approaches

- Integrated to a Guinea health system
- A global vision which integrates prevention, fistula repairs, and the social rehabilitation of women living with Fistula

A project that stresses the fundamental causes of fistula; these causes are linked to socio-economic factors, which originate from poverty and the vulnerability of some part of the population.

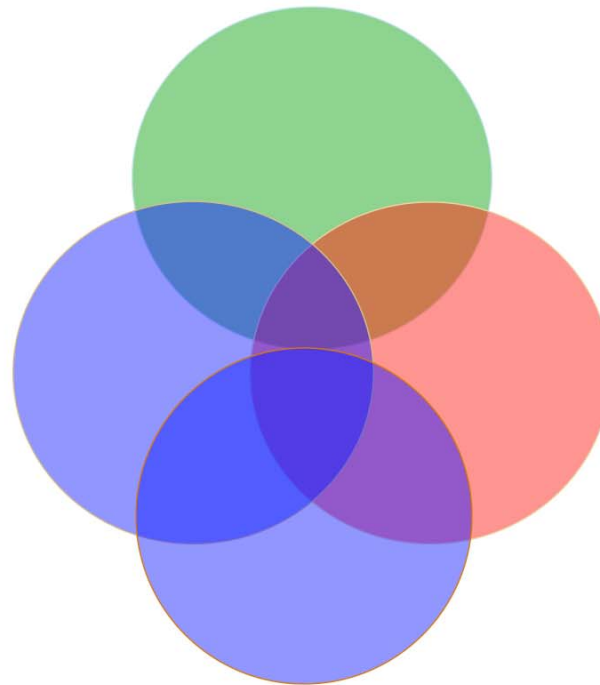
Project Components

Fistula Treatment

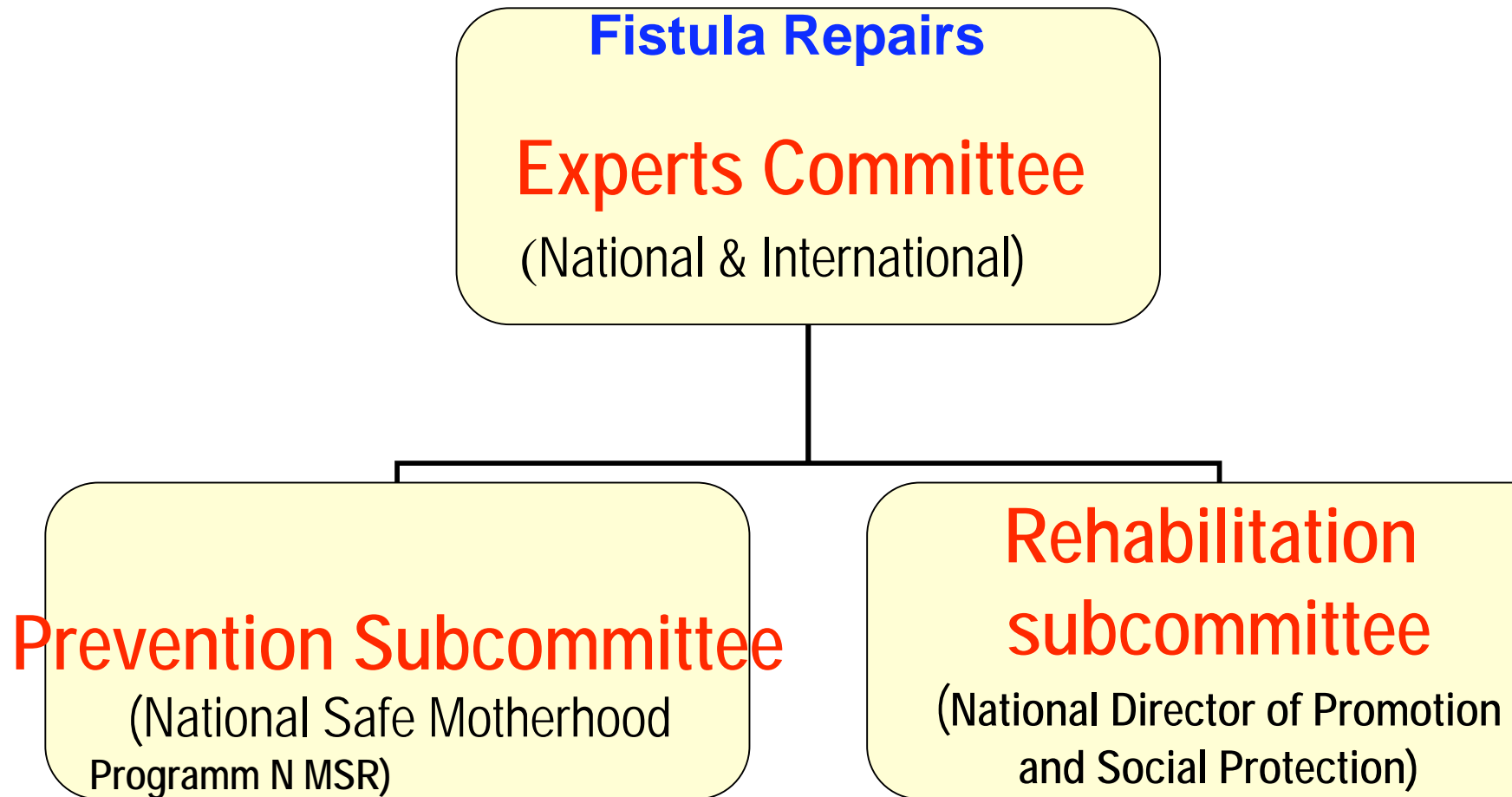
Prevention

Social rehabilitation

Democracy and good governance



Project Integration and in-services

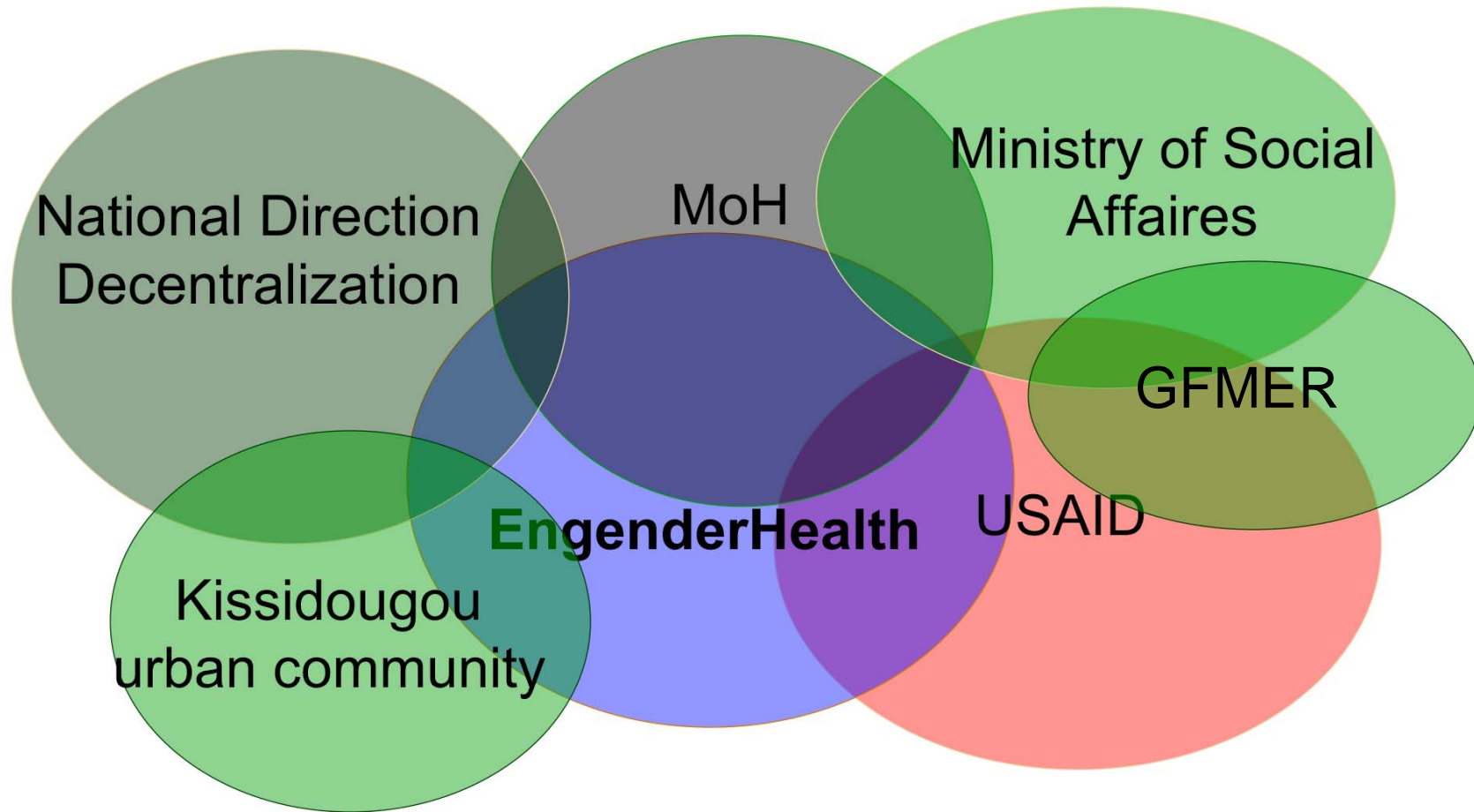


Project sites of Interventions





Partnership Network



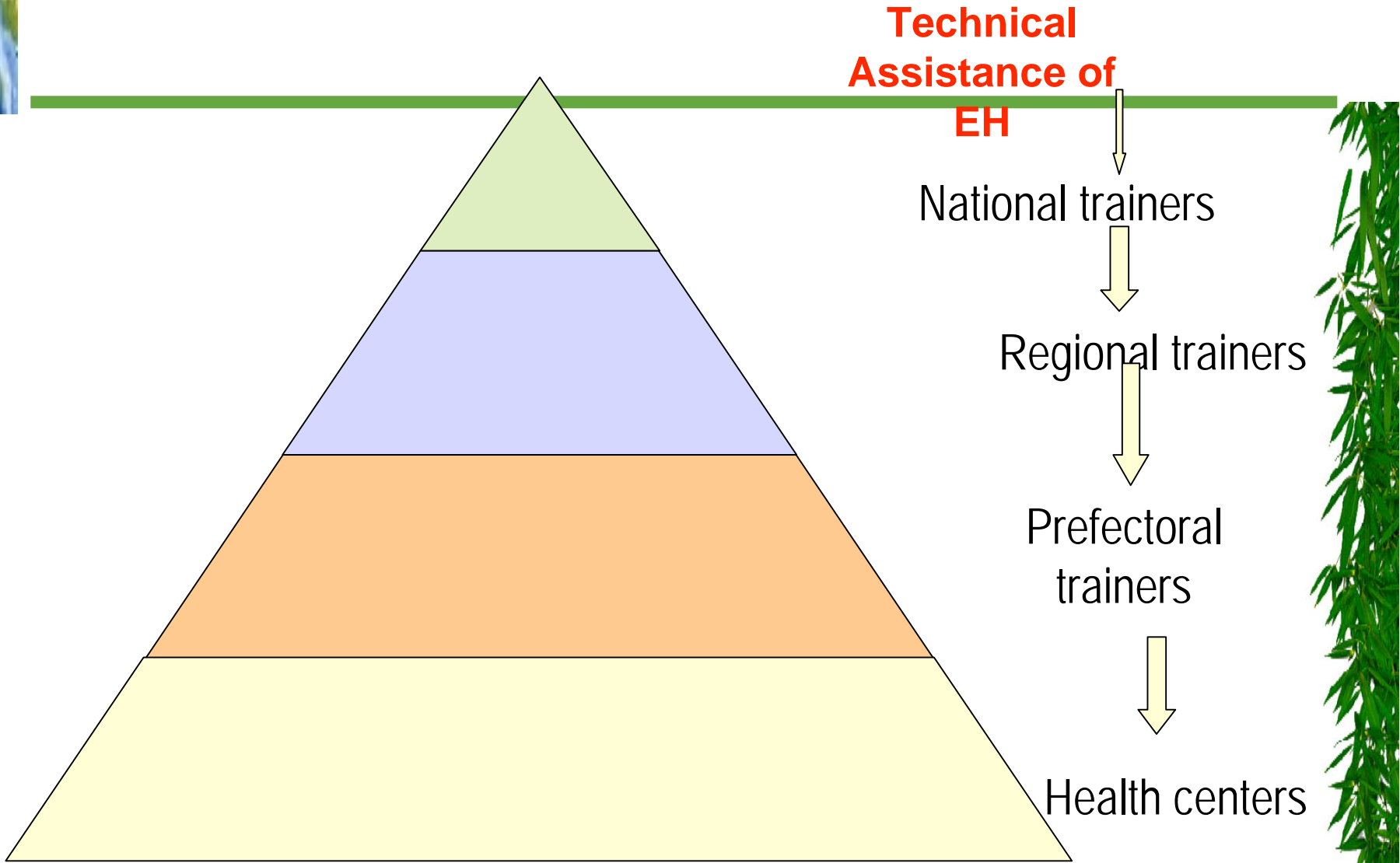
Prevention

Strategies

1. Village committees of protection of mother and child: *a strategy of proximity*

- Identify pregnant women to assure they receive all 4 prenatal visits
- Refer obstetric complications from time to time
- Community awareness on the causes of fistula including early marriages, female genital cutting, and sexual violence.
- Assurance of reliable community statistics: ANC, new born, maternal deaths

2. A training strategy in cascade with providers partnering with the National Safe Motherhood program for quality obstetric care.



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Fistula Repairs

- Improvement of providers (in counseling, nursing care, anesthesiology , IP/Management of medical waste, COPE, etc.)
- Equipment and materials
- Training of local surgeons (national expertise and GFMER)
- Clients' nutrition



Fistula treatments

Statistics (January 2006 to December 2007)

Total number of women who came in the 2 sites seeking fistula treatment	760
Total number of women who had fistula surgery	539
Total number of women who received fistula intervention and recovered when leaving the health center.	392
Success rate	72,72%

Reintegration

Partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs

- **Psychosocial Therapy:** social immersion of women who suffered from deep emotional problems. Fistula treatment should go beyond the surgical treatment and include the psychosocial treatment.
- Awareness activities and advocacy work by « satisfied clients » during the social events (marriages, naming ceremonies)

Partnership with urban community of Kissidougou and the National Direction of Decentralization

Fund from EH to stimulate the innovation

- Growth of institutional capacities of the community of Kissidougou
- Mobilization and secure of local financial resources using the “Town-market” approach (in 6 months, we receive a growth of 234% of generated receipts from the municipal market)
- Citizen participation
- Engagement of community to allocate some funds for the support of the implementation of fistula treatment (Waiting House for clients, support for activities by the village committee).





Assets and constraints

- **Assets:** Strong governmental implication (Ministries of health, social affairs, Decentralization); Committees of operational piloting; support of communities; relevant strategies of training
- **Constraints:** Large demand compare to supply; Standardization of process of certification of surgeons to do fistula repairs according to international criteria.



Thank you



Goal and Objectives of project...

2008-20012: Contribution to reach targeted results of Fistula Care Project

- Strengthening the sites capacities to contribute to the quality of repairs and the implementation of gynecological obstetric fistula and traumatic fistula;
- Understanding and practicing of fistula prevention, use of urgent services of obstetric care to support the integration of women with fistula in the health sites and within the community;
- Compilation, analysis and use of reports to statistic data to improve the performance of fistula services;
- Reinforcement of a favorable environment to institutionalize prevention of fistula programs, repairs, and reintegration