



Biweekly Update – June 11, 2008

FISTULA CARE TRAINS FISTULA COUNSELING TRAINERS FROM FIVE NIGERIAN STATES IN SOKOTO

The ACQUIRE/Fistula Care Project in Nigeria conducted a training of trainers in Fistula Counseling at Shukurah Hotel, Sokoto from February 18th to 23rd, 2008. Dr. Fredrick Ndede, Medical Associate from EngenderHealth/Kenya and Dr. Adamu Isah (Medical Associate of ACQUIRE-Nigeria) provided technical assistance and facilitation of the training. Eighteen doctor and nurse participants were trained and certified as trainers in Fistula Counseling. Participants represented five Nigerian states: four were from Zamfara, four from Katsina, three from Kano, three from Sokoto, and four from Kebbi. Training results include:

- All participants obtained higher scores on the post-test than on the pretest. The average pretest score was 50% while the post-test average score was 75%. Some of the participants already had had some training experience. This may explain the high pretest average and it indicates that participants may make good fistula counseling trainers.
- Most participants did not initially know that counseling begins right from admission.
- Daily reflection forms indicated that most participants were very appreciative of the opportunity to attend and learn.
- All the invited participants attended the training and were certified as trainers in fistula counseling.

The counseling curriculum used for this Nigerian training of trainers is currently being formally field-tested in Bangladesh.

FISTULA CARE LAUNCHES THE DIGITAL STORIES IN UGANDA

In August 2007 the ACQUIRE Project partnered with the Center for Digital Storytelling and St. Joseph Hospital in Kitovu to document experiences of girls and women who have experienced obstetric fistula. A DVD entitled "Learn from my Story: Women Confront Fistula in Rural Uganda" was developed and has been duplicated for dissemination. On April 9, 2008, at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala, the Uganda



Fistula Care program hosted a launch of the Digital Stories DVD in conjunction with the dissemination of results from the study “Sharing The Burden; Ugandan Women Speak About Obstetric Fistula” by Women’s Dignity Project. The launch brought together 59 diverse stakeholders working on obstetric fistula in the region.

Participants were addressed by the Minister of State for Primary Health Care, Dr Emmanuel Ojala, USAID Mission Director Ms Margot Ellis and the Commissioner for Clinical Services Dr Jacinto Amandua. Three Digital Story testimonies were screened. The testimonies recount hardships and celebrate achievements, depicting loss and women’s search for health, dignity, safety, and restored relationships. The Digital Stories DVD also includes short interview segments with health providers that explore the perspectives, motivations and challenges involved in fistula prevention and repair. The Digital Stories will be used during fistula trainings (for counselors, nurses, and surgeons) in the future. Further dissemination activities in Uganda and globally are being discussed. To see the videos, go to <http://engenderhealth.org/our-work/maternal/digital-stories-uganda-fistula.php>.