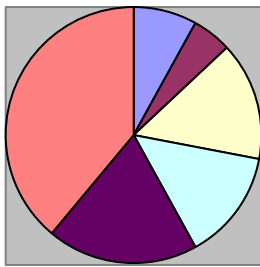




POPPHI Training Reaches Timbuktu

Promoting the use of a life-saving intervention—active management of the third stage of labor

Active management of the third stage of labor (AMTSL) has been a focus in Mali since 2002, when Mali was part of the United States Agency for International Development's Special Initiative. Maternal mortality statistics from 2002 show that PPH was the cause of 39% of maternal deaths in EONC facilities.



- Ectopic pregnancy (8%)
- Abortion (5%)
- Uterine rupture (15%)
- Infection (14%)
- Eclampsia (19%)
- Haemorrhage (39%)

Chart 1. Direct causes of maternal mortality in EONC facilities in Mali (2002)

In 2006, the midwifery association focused on AMTSL as a theme of their National Day of the Midwife. However, the region of Timbuktu did not benefit from training throughout this time.

In Mali, Timbuktu is often the last region to receive technical updates and trainings, due to its significant distance from the capital city. When the Association of Midwives of Mali and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Mali pursued funding from the Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage Initiative

(POPPHI), they decided to target the region of Timbuktu for exactly this reason.

The associations focused the work of the POPPHI small grant on Timbuktu with three main objectives:

- Ensure the training of trainers/providers in AMTSL in the region of Timbuktu.
- Orient the pharmacists and pharmacy managers in the proper management of oxytocic drugs.
- Ensure the supervision of trained providers in AMTSL.

The team traveled to Timbuktu to complete the comprehensive training of the only obstetrician/gynecologist in the region, six general doctors, five midwives, and three obstetrical nurses, as well as two tutors of private nursing schools. These tutors will take these skills back to the nursing schools and include AMTSL in the pre-service curricula, an important step for sustainability of AMTSL skills in the region.

The training was very successful, and participants remarked on how happy they were to learn that AMTSL is possible with few resources. Participants were enthusiastic, because having these skills will truly help them in their work.

The small grant activities in Mali are still underway, and will be fully evaluated at the end of project implementation. However, one immediate result has been the collaboration between the midwifery and obstetric/gynecologic associations. This was the first time that the two associations worked together, and it demonstrated the success possible for remote areas such as Timbuktu when the associations join forces.

The POPPHI small grant was an important way to motivate the health care providers in Timbuktu. Instead of being the last region trained, the process was accelerated for Timbuktu, giving them the skills necessary to save women's lives.

About POPPHI

The POPPHI project is led by PATH and includes four partners: RTI International, EngenderHealth, the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics, and the International Confederation of Midwives. With funding from the US Agency for International Development, POPPHI works to reduce postpartum hemorrhage (excessive bleeding after delivery)—the single most important cause of maternal deaths worldwide. Among its activities, POPPHI awards small grants to midwifery and obstetric/gynecologic associations to support activities that expand the use of AMTSL (use of a uterotonic drug, assisting with the delivery of the placenta, and massaging the uterus after delivery) and other evidence-based interventions that reduce PPH.



Grantee organizations have engaged in a number of activities: organizing national meetings and workshops on preventing PPH and improving provider skills in AMTSL and use and availability of uterotonic drugs.

POPPHI has awarded 15 grants to associations within Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. To learn more visit www.pphprevention.org.