Innovative effective approaches for increasing family planning access in difficult to access settings

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Recognizing and enhancing capacity of local NGOs is needed to ensure sustainability and quality of FP services in conflict affected (and transitional) settings.
Assumption

Local NGOs can:

• prevent life saving RH/FP service gaps (post conflict)
• increase RH/FP coverage in a cost-effective way
• scale up services quickly and effectively
• ensure continuous service provision during crisis and in remote areas
Astarte project model

- Seed grants for local NGOs in conflict affected areas
- Technical training
- Organizational Strengthening
- Linkages (regional, international RH community)
Liberia experience
PMU-Liberia

- a relief and development arm of the Free Pentecostal Church in Liberia
- providing humanitarian services to Liberians since 1991
- currently managing 15 Ministry of Health clinics and the 3 health centres in 3 counties
PMU-Liberia experience with Astarte model

- $10,000 seed grant for community based RH/FP
- Technical and organizational strengthening
- Materials
- Linkages and leadership opportunities in-country, regionally and internationally
PMU-Liberia Project: 2007

- Trained traditional midwives (shift to FP emphasis) in Lofa County
- Well positioned to implement services
- Understand language, culture, community structures
Inputs

• Proposal writing workshop
• $10,000 grant
• M&E training
• Organizational development and leadership training
• Reproductive health training and materials
• Networking (nationally, regionally, internationally)
PMU-Liberia 2009

• Advocacy for family within the organization; nationally
• Leveraging funds for family planning within PHC services
• Able to develop technically sound implementation strategies using materials, tools, training – financial, material, technical inputs
• Initiated national RH network “REHNL”
Lessons Learned: Seed grant and technical support

• Enabled us to build organizational track record & recognition

• Provided tools to be an effective FP advocate
Lessons Learned: Seed grant and technical support provided

- ‘REHNL’ giving stronger voice for FP and for local NGO leadership in FP service delivery
- Opportunity to leverage additional RH/FP funds ($10,000- to 2 million)
- Resulting in increased access to FP and linkages to a broader range of RH services
Conclusion

With appropriate support, local NGOs are best positioned to provide effective, culturally acceptable, relevant RH and FP services especially in conflict and transitional settings.
Thank you