

Seizing opportunities: the Uganda experience

The Uganda Country Office
and Marilen J. Danguilan

Sector Wide Approaches

- SWAps replace the inefficiency of project-based funding
- All donors pool their resources and participate in a joint process with the MOH to determine priorities for the sector.

Influencing the process

- To ensure that maternal mortality reduction be a priority
- Conduct a needs assessment on EmOC using the UN Process Indicators
- Use the results for advocacy

The UN Process Indicators

Tell us about changes in:

- access
- utilization
- quality of emergency obstetric care services (EmOC)

The UN Process Indicators

Answer these questions:

Are there enough facilities providing
EmOC?

Are they well distributed?

Are enough women using these facilities?

The UN Process Indicators

Answer these questions:

Are the right women using these facilities?

Are enough critical services being provided?

Is the quality of the services adequate?

UNICEF and AMDD

- Needs assessments require technical support and funds
- UNICEF requested AMDD's assistance

Needs Assessment on EmOC

197 health facilities in 19 out of
the 56 districts were assessed
using the UN Process Indicators

Availability

19 Districts (pop: 9.3 M)

	Minimum Required	19 Districts	Gap
CemOC	19	23	+4
BemOC	76	18	-56

Signal functions

Of the 36 Health Center IVs, only 2 offered all the signal functions of comprehensive EmOC.

Signal functions

Of the 129 Health Center IIIs,
only 5 offered the full range of
signal functions of basic EmOC.

Availability

There are enough facilities but many facilities are not functioning.

Proportion of births in EmOC facilities

5 per cent of women in Uganda give birth in EmOC facilities.
(minimum required is 15 per cent.)

Met Need

The met need for EmOC is 5 per cent.

The met need should be 100 per cent.

C-Sections as a Percentage of Births

- Only 1.02 per cent received a C-section.
- This is below 5% -- the minimum rate of C-sections that should take place in the districts.

Case Fatality Rate

Case fatality rate is more than 1 per cent.

Deaths in health facilities should be less than 1 per cent.

Response

MOH and development partners agreed that an important first step is to improve facility-based deliveries and address EmOC.

Hard data and priorities

- Powerful advocacy tool to put maternal mortality reduction in the agenda.
- Enabled MOH to prioritize on key interventions
- Engaged donors

Opportunities

- High level political support
- Decentralization of health system
- Mid-term review of the Health Sector Strategic Plan