

PAC Connection Meeting Highlights

December 8, 2015

Attendees: Carolyn Curtis (USAID), Erin Mielke (USAID), Alanna White (USAID), Caroll Vasquez (USAID), Denise L Harrison (USAID), Trish MacDonald (USAID), Emily Hillman (USAID), Kim Ocheltree (USAID), Bethany Arnold (Jhpiego), Devon Mackenzie (Jhpiego), Elizabeth Tully (Johns Hopkins CCP), Douglas Huber (CCIH/USAID Consultant – virtual participation), Ekpenyong Ekanem (Abt Associates), Grace Lusiola (EngenderHealth), Colin Baynes (EngenderHealth), Christopher Lindahl (EngenderHealth), Boniface Sebikali (IntraHealth), Julie Taft (Marie Stopes), James Harcourt (Marie Stopes), Gwen Morgan (E2A/MSH), Kathryn Mimno (Pathfinder International), Caitlin Quade (PSI)

[PAC: Our Past and Present and Needs for the Future](#) – Carolyn Curtis, *USAID*

To begin her presentation, Carolyn explained how PAC programming has shifted over the years and highlighted the wealth of materials that are now available on postabortion care – for example, the [PAC Global Resource Package](#), the [Postabortion Family Planning HIP brief](#), and the [Joint Consensus Statement](#). She spoke about the evidence-based research that is available on postabortion care but made the case for more research in the areas of: demographic information on PAC clients (age, marital status, parity, history of miscarriage or abortion, number of pregnancies, if method was being used at time of pregnancy and if so, which one), ensuring postabortion family planning when using misoprostol, community empowerment, scaling up of PAC programs, number of PAC clients globally, and how PAC helps to meet global initiatives like the SDGs. Carolyn also highlighted some upcoming global activities that will require assistance from the members of the PAC Connection including: review of the 2nd edition of the Research Compendium, review of a global PAC training curriculum, review of BeMONC/CeMONC guidelines, and a refresh/update to the global resources in PAC Global Resource Package. Please include the LOE toward these activities and the attendance at the PAC Connection Meetings in your budget request for next year. Lastly, Carolyn spoke about the plans for a Francophone PAC Secretariat that the PAC-FP Project is working on establishing with the organization, CEFORP – the timeline to get started on that activity is anticipated for Winter-Spring, 2016.

The following discussion points/questions were raised following the presentation:

- Regarding the [USAID PAC Model](#), do we need to change the terminology for component one – emergency treatment? Not all women are having an “emergency” at the time of treatment due to PAC services being closer to them and earlier recognition of complications.
- How do we get more and better family planning information into pharmacies and drug shops for women buying misoprostol for self-inducing abortion or for use to treat postpartum hemorrhage after a home birth?
- MSI is doing research into the demographics of clients visiting drug shops and requesting misoprostol

Postabortion Care Priority Areas – Elizabeth Tully, *Johns Hopkins CCP, K4Health Project, Erin Mielke, USAID*

Elizabeth and Erin focused on the priority areas and activities that were identified at the January 2015 PAC Connection Meeting, as seen in this [table](#). Elizabeth started by sharing the results from a survey that was sent to

all of the PAC Connection members to show the progress that has been made so far in the identified priorities as well as show the intent for the upcoming year. [See the full survey results.](#)

Erin led a lively discussion about these priority areas and asked the group to reflect on if the priorities were still applicable and if there were any gaps or new considerations for the upcoming year.

1. Some meeting participants found it surprising that donor coordination was on the lower end as donor coordination focused on postabortion family planning is an easy win that everyone should be working on
2. HMIS and registers need to be more routinely used in decision-making. Indicators should be made to be as useful as possible for collecting information on these clients. Also, we need to look at what information is being gathered at the facility level that can be used at the national level for impact.
3. PSI recently started integrating electronic client records and the information in the record's dashboards helps them in decision-making. This is particularly useful for clients that return to the same facility.
4. Health financing is a new priority – the availability of free contraceptives is very important and PAC treatment and postabortion FP services should be bundled and not treated as two separate costs for the client.
5. Values clarification and training activities should be combined together so the values clarification piece doesn't get missed. There is a module on values clarification in the Global PAC Training Curriculum.
6. Need a way to more systematically get updated counseling information to providers – discussion about possible mHealth platforms was explored. There is a platform for CHWs in Tanzania. Is it possible to include PAC information and updates to this platform? Return to fertility information would be key.

Carolyn closed the meeting by reminding the group about the USAID budget request process. A new activity has a better chance of getting funded if it is included as part of the core budget request. Ongoing activities will likely be funded. To ensure that the review and updates of several PAC resources happen in the upcoming year, it is recommended that projects include the PAC Connection in their technical working group budget request to cover LOE for meeting attendance and for assistance in the reviews of the above named PAC resources. The group also discussed devoting part of the next PAC Connection Meeting (not the January ICFP Meeting) to a refresher of the PAC Global Resource Package. More information to come!

Other Notes and Next Steps

The Postabortion Care eLearning course will be launching this January at ICFP. This course will be available on the [Global Health eLearning Center platform](#). Please stay tuned for that announcement!

If you are implementing postabortion care programs, please add them to the [HIPs map](#).

If you will be attending the International Conference on Family Planning, please join us at our auxiliary meeting on Sunday, January 24th – registration information can be found here: <https://pac-connection-icfp.eventbrite.com>.