

PAC Connection Meeting

September 8, 2016

Attendees: Alanna White (USAID), Carolyn Curtis (USAID), Colin Baynes (EngenderHealth), Douglas Huber (PAC-FP Project), Edward Kenyi, Elizabeth Creel (JSI), Emily Hillman (USAID), Erin Mielke (USAID), Grace Lusiola (EngenderHealth), Kimberly Cole (USAID), Kristen Devlin, Jen Mason (USAID), Mychelle Farmer (Jhpiego), Olatunde Ojeyinde, Ricky Lu (Jhpiego), Thierno Dieng (CEFOREP)

PAC and Zika - Kimberly Cole, *USAID*

Kimberly Cole provided information related to USAID's position on postabortion care and family planning as it relates to the Zika virus. The following points were made in Kimberly's presentation:

- USAID is committed to advancing women's health as a key development intervention, and continues to invest in voluntary family planning and reproductive health programs, as well as programs that provide support and services to individuals in humanitarian emergencies. USAID family planning programs aim to expand access to voluntary family planning information, services, and methods, which is the most effective way to prevent unintended pregnancies and therefore abortion.
- USAID is committed to ensuring that women and couples in developing countries have access to voluntary family planning information, services, and methods and are free to make informed decisions about their reproductive lives. Women considering becoming pregnant in Zika-affected areas should be advised of the risks, and provided with family planning information, services, and methods if they decide to delay pregnancy.
- Principles of voluntarism and informed choice guide all of USAID's family planning efforts. USAID will work with partner country governments and our implementing partners to support and strengthen systems in Guatemala, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Haiti (among others) in their Zika response efforts in order to minimize negative pregnancy outcomes.
- The family planning approach within USAID's Zika response is to support countries in ensuring that women, couples, and adolescents have the ability to make voluntary, informed decisions about their reproductive lives. Our approach aims to strengthen country systems and support providers to respond to family planning needs in the context of Zika, emphasizing voluntarism and informed choice.
- USAID takes very seriously the legal and policy requirements that guide its health programs, including family planning, and works with Missions and partners to ensure compliance with these requirements. Most countries in the Latin America region have graduated from USAID family planning assistance. The Agency has to ensure capacity to effectively monitor for compliance with the legal and policy requirements before supporting FP service delivery in Zika-affected countries without USAID FP programs.
- USAID is strengthening existing services emphasizing respectful care of pregnant women and infants with suspected congenital Zika syndrome. This includes:
 - Strengthening antenatal care for all pregnant women including counseling on prevention (repellents, use of condoms to prevent sexual transmission, and other

measures) and validating women's concerns. This will include procuring repellent and condoms.

- Strengthening antenatal care and delivery services for women with suspected Zika infection during pregnancy, including psycho-social support for the family and specialized newborn care at delivery
- Care for infants with suspected congenital Zika infection including application of basic neurodevelopmental monitoring and development and mainstreaming of policies and guidelines to promote intersectoral care and support for children affected by Zika and their families.

[Drug to Drug Interaction](#) – Jen Mason, *USAID*

Jen Mason provided information concerning Hormonal Contraception and HIV. Below are the main takeaways from the presentation.

HIV-negative women taking HC

What is USAID doing?

- PRH/OHA activities to provide guidance to USAID missions, partners and MOH counterparts. USG and USAID Briefs on Hormonal Contraception and HIV
- Strategic Communication Framework for Hormonal Contraception Methods and HIV Related Risks
- Plan to evaluate roll out of HC-HIV messages in Malawi
- Method mix analysis (Net-En)
- Support to USG partners, USAID missions and implementing partners in integrating HC-HIV messages into HIV and FP programming
- Collaboration with WHO and UNFPA to disseminate information to MOH and UN offices

HIV-positive (+) women taking ART and HC

What is USAID doing?

- PRH/OHA activities to provide guidance to USAID missions, partners and MOH counterparts.
 - USG/USAID Briefs
 - Research (MCSP and Envision)
 - Prospective PK/PD study – ETG (is ETG better than LNG – for how long?)
 - Retrospective chart review
 - Method Choice support

[PAC in East Africa](#) – Grace Lusiola, *PAC-FP Project*

Grace focused on the Postabortion Care Family Planning (PAC-FP) Project. She provided the background information, the goals, and the pillars of the project. She shared how the project is being implemented in Tanzania and discussed the preliminary findings – for example the demographics of PAC clients – mean age of 27, majority are married, almost half have parity of 4 or greater, and nearly 80% were gestational age of 12 weeks or less. Grace's presentation shared a wealth of detailed data and visualizations to showcase the information the project is gathering to have a family planning-strengthened PAC program.

PAC in West Africa – Thierno Dieng, *CEFOREP*

The second part of the presentation provided an update on the Francophone PAC Secretariat. Thierno explained the history of the Secretariat and why strengthening postabortion family planning in Francophone Africa is important. He shared the goal of the Secretariat, which is to improve the environment at the national and regional levels for scaling up high quality postabortion care services in seven countries, by focusing on strengthening the family planning component. He discussed the structure of the Secretariat – and its' committees – Advisory, Technical, and Policies and Funding. The group's operating model includes annual meetings, remote meetings, webinars, and resources on the postabortioncare.org website. Thierno outlined the target countries, the completed activities, and the next steps for the Secretariat.

PAC Consortium Updates – Ricky Lu, *Jhpiego*

Ricky presented on behalf of the PAC Consortium. Below are the main takeaways from his presentation.

General:

- Pathfinder International (Kathryn Mimno) is honored to again serve as the chairing agency for 2016-2018.

Transition:

- Over the next two years the Consortium will steward a collaborative and inclusive process toward expanding our scope beyond PAC to include safe abortion care to the fullest extent permitted in each context.
- It is our goal that the Consortium will address PAC as part of a continuum of comprehensive abortion care, while accounting for a range of policy and practice environments that differ from one setting to the next, bridging divides and facilitating knowledge sharing between contexts.
- The Consortium will steward an inclusive and participatory process and will be providing multiple avenues for member engagement including open ended survey's, email feedback, and open discussion at our fall meeting this October.

In order to find the Consortium's niche as we expand, the Consortium will be completing a landscape analysis.

The Revitalization of Task Forces:

- The PAC Consortium is working to revitalize its task forces.
- The Steering Committee and Task Force Chairs are discussing the current SOW of each task force, reviewing how they could be expanded reflect the full continuum of abortion care, and will draft an action plan for discussion at the October meeting

FIGOSAGO conference:

- The PAC Consortium submitted (pending approval) a 3 hour workshop entitled: Misoprostol as a tool for abortion and postabortion care: An interactive session for providers and decision makers.

Webinar series:

- The PAC Consortium is planning a series of webinars over the course of the next year and a half (4-6 webinars).
- We are aiming to launch the first webinar at our fall meeting this October.

Postpartum and Postabortion Family Planning – Erin Mielke, Carolyn Curtis, *USAID*

This presentation focused on postpartum and postabortion clients. To begin, Erin described the difference between these terms and the characteristics of those clients – and emphasized the need to refer to them separately and distinctly. However, she discussed how postabortion and postpartum women should all receive family planning counseling and offered a method before leaving the facility. Lastly, Erin advocated for postpartum family planning and postabortion family planning to be integrated into policies, training, data, quality, client materials, community services, and male engagement activities.

Highlights of the Major Accomplishments of the PAC Connection

- Establishment of the PAC Connection – USAID’s Interagency working Group – 2008
- Publication of the Global PAC Resources Package – 2008 – This online resource is visited by more than 108 countries and territories. Most visitors to the page are new visitors (77.5%). The top most used documents include:
 - PAC Training Curriculum
 - PAC Service Delivery Guidelines
 - PAC Model and Results Framework
 - Recommended PAC Communication Materials
 - PAC Research
 - Numerous articles in peer reviewed journals that advocate for PAC FP and community mobilization using the community action cycle.
 - Joint Consensus Statement on Postabortion Family Planning (2009, 2013)
 - High Impact Practice Technical Brief on Postabortion Family Planning
- Global PAC Research Compendium that has been revised in 2014 illustrating 20 years of evidence on Postabortion care
- Regional Francophone PAC Workshops (2008, 2013)
- Moving PAC Connection meetings (PAC Connection Meetings at ICFP - Senegal, Indonesia)
- Numerous research activities
- Research on the work implemented through action plans compiled in the Regional West Africa Meetings (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Togo, Senegal)
- Re-launching of the Francophone PAC Secretariat (2016)
- Joint workplanning to further the field of Postabortion care
- Joint work with the PAC Consortium