



KENYA



PHASE II

Country Situation at Baseline

Profile of typical fistula survivor: A hospital-based study conducted in 2003 in Mabeya, in the West Pokot region of Kenya, found that the mean age of women with fistula was 20.5, with a range of 14-38 years. The main cause was obstructed labour.

Caseload: It is estimated that, through a survey commissioned by UNFPA in 2003, there are 3000 new cases per year, with approximately one to two fistula per 1,000 deliveries in Kenya. Only 7.5% of women with fistula are able to access treatment. The number of fistula operations performed annually during the ten years between 1992 and 2001 increased steadily from a low of 36 cases to a high of 479 cases. In the four districts surveyed, there were 113 reported fistula cases, of which 94 were repaired. West Pokot receives and repairs most of these cases. The backlog of cases is estimated at 30,000.

Barriers: Unlike many other African countries, theatre equipment and supplies are not the major hindrance to fistula repair in Kenya. The country suffers from a severe staffing shortage, particularly of trained surgeons and nurses. Transportation is also a big constraint. In the very remote areas, vehicles are only available on Wednesdays (market day) and many women resort to using a wheelbarrow for travelling great distances.

Cultural context: It is interesting to note that stigma was not prominent in the regions of Kwale, Mwingi and Homa Bay. In these areas, women with fistula were regarded with sympathy but would isolate themselves out of embarrassment, due to the smell of urine. In the West Pokot district, however, it was evident that stigma around the condition is an issue. In extreme cases, some husbands have returned wives to their fathers and demanded a refund of cows (the bride price), especially if the woman develops a fistula during the first childbirth.

Facilities Available to Treat Fistula

UNFPA supported sites:

- Moi Referral and Teaching Hospital, Eldoret (Ministry of Health)
- Nyanza Provincial General Hospital, Kisumu (Ministry of Health)
- Machakos General Hospital, Machakos (Ministry of Health)
- Coast Provincial General Hospital (Ministry of Health)

Others:

- Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi (Ministry of Health)

SELECTED INDICATORS	
Total population (millions)	32.4
Total fertility rate (2000-2005)	4.00
MMR (per 100,000 live births)	414
% births with skilled birth attendant	42
births among women 15-19 (per 1,000 live births)	78
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	69
Source: UNFPA State of World Population, 2004, KDHS 03	



- Jamma Hospital, Nairobi (Faith based - Catholic)
- Outreach services in Kapengoria and North Eastern (Int. NGO - AMREF)

UNFPA Programme Achievements

Policy

Kenya is working with the newly created National Fistula Task Force (which includes the Ministry of Health, clinical and medical staff, and representatives from NGOs, CBOs, and UNFPA) to develop a national strategy for fistula advocacy, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. The proposal for program design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation has been finalized.

Research

UNFPA commissioned a Kenya's in-depth needs assessment between November 2003 and January 2004. The final report is available.

Prevention

Strategies to prevent fistula have been integrated in the current safe motherhood initiatives in the nine UNFPA supported MOH Districts and three Nairobi City Council slum Health Facilities.

Management /Treatment of Obstetric Fistula Patients

- Identification of three Provincial and one Teaching Hospital which will serve as referral centers for the treatment of obstetric fistula cases from surrounding districts. The four training sites are: Machakos General Hospital; Coast Province Hospital; Provincial General Hospital, Nyanza; and Moi Referral & Teaching Hospital, Eldoret.
- National Obstetric Fistula Training Curriculum finalized;
- Training of a core team of twelve for obstetric fistula management, consisting of Doctors, Operating theatre nurses, Anesthetists, Nurse-Counselor, Social worker and Occupational Therapist;
- Procurement of Obstetric Fistula repair surgical kits, operating tables, operating lights and expendable supplies to the four training and treatment hospitals cited above;
- Minor renovations of operating rooms/theatres in the Moi Referral & Teaching Hospital, Machakos, Coast, and Nyanza PG Hospitals.
- Training workshops on Obstetric Fistula management and repair conducted in 3 of the 4 designated training sites, Machakos, Moi Referral & Teaching Hospital and Nyanza PGH.
- 40 Health Care service providers (18 doctors and 22 paramedics i.e. nurses, anesthetists, physiotherapists, counselors and social worker) from 10 sites trained in Obstetric Fistula management and repairs;
- Trainees from the 10 sites have been provided with Obstetric Fistula (VVF & VRF) repair kits;
- 116 patients with obstetric fistulas were repaired and 15 patients with other urinary problems assisted.

Key stakeholders:

- ***Ministry of Health:*** KNH, Moi Referral and Teaching Hospital, Nyanza PGH, Coast PGH and Machakos General Hospital.
- ***Deployment Partners / International & Local NGOs*** implementing safe motherhood UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, FCI, World Vision, AMREF, SETAT Women's Group-Pokot