

Project Design Summary for Group 5 Team Nepal

Strategic Objective: Increased access to appropriate health care to expectant mothers in rural Nepal

IR3: Enhanced affordability of prenatal care

- 3.1 Enlarged pool of trained birth attendants in rural areas
- 3.2 Increased prenatal check-ups in rural communities
- 3.3 Increased consumption of prenatal supplements

Our project is divided into two major sub-projects, grassroots strategies and government-level strategies. Within the grassroots project, there are five general activities planned:

1. Mobilize women's groups and community groups
2. Strengthen existing midwife training
3. Create a midwife mentoring program
4. Provide direct material assistance
5. Create an education campaign

Within the Government Capacity project, there are two major activities planned:

1. Streamlining government midwife certification processes
2. On-going government advocacy to disseminate yearly reports, and yearly conference

Intervention Strategy

Mobilization

- Action: Mobilizing women's groups and community groups
- Brief description of major activities: We will help women create women's groups and provide them with initial ideas for how to support each other. We will help local communities create groups that focus on women's health, initially providing them with ideas, information and topics for consideration.
- Target audience for each activity: women and the local communities
- Implementers: Group 5 Nepal team
- Timing: Ongoing over the entire project
- Brief rationale/justification for your choices: We need both the women to feel empowered and the men in the local communities to buy into these proposed changes, hence the need for both women's groups and community groups.

Organizational Capacity Development

- Action: Assist government in improving and expanding existing midwife training
- Brief description of major activities: Work with government to streamline training process by creating standardized curriculum, training manual and training schedule
- Target audience for each activity: Training organizations, Government
- Implementers: Group 5 Nepal team and Ministry of Health
- Timing: At the beginning of each calendar year and every 6 months thereafter
- Brief rationale/justification for your choices: We'll work with the government to set specific standards so that they can collaborate with training organizations to create standardized training curriculum.

Individual Capacity Development

- Action: Increase capacity of individual midwives the community-level
- Brief description of major activities: Create a self-perpetuating mentoring system that connects novice and experienced midwives located in the same geographic regions
- Target audience for each activity: Novice midwives and experienced midwives
- Implementers: Group 5 Nepal Team and Training Organizations
- Timing: Focus on creating the midwife mentoring program within the first 6 months in country
- Brief rationale/justification for your choices: By implementing the program with the training organizations that are in direct contact with the midwives, we can ensure the sustainability of the program when we exit

Supply Improvement and/or Demand Generation

- Action: Increase demand for neonatal care
 - Brief description of major activities: Via educational campaigns in rural areas
 - Target audience for each activity: pregnant women, and future mothers
 - Implementers: Group 5 Team Nepal, Ministry of Health
 - Timing: Over the course of the program
 - Brief rationale/justification for your choices: In many cases women don't even know what services are currently available to them, by creating more awareness around these services, the Ministry of Health can get a better idea of how well current programs can meet current needs and what would be effective use of funds and program creation in the future
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- Action: Increase credibility of the midwives, by improving the quality of care provided
 - Brief description of major activities: Help the government create a nation-wide certification program for midwives, that has the flexibility to certify new midwives as well as current midwives
 - Target audience for each activity: Government, Ministry of Health, midwives (eventually)
 - Implementers: Group 5 Nepal team and Ministry of Health
 - Timing: Focus on creating the certification system within the first 6 months
 - Brief rationale/justification for your choices: The government needs to increase the quality care given by midwives in their country, in order to assure some base level of competency for patients

Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination

- Action: Transfer the knowledge and data generated by Group 5 Team Nepal to the government
- Brief description of major activities: Aggressively advocate to government about projects' success and places for future improvement via yearly reports and yearly conferences
- Target audience for each activity: Ministry of Health and future international development organizations
- Implementers: Group 5 Nepal Team
- Timing: First contact made approximately a six months into project with a preliminary progress report, and timeline for setting up first conference
- Brief rationale/justification for your choices: In order for Group 5 Team Nepal to make a sustainable exit, the government needs to have a clear understanding of the specific successes and failures of our efforts, as well as the underlying need for these services and the overarching improvements made in maternal health

Material Assistance

- Action: Create a more connected midwife network in rural areas
- Brief description of major activities: Distribute bicycles, cell phones and neonatal medical kits to midwives
- Target audience for each activity: Trained midwives in rural communities of Nepal.
- Implementers: Group 5 Nepal Team
- Timing: Quarterly from beginning of project
- Brief rationale/justification for your choice: Distribution of resources will increase productivity of midwives and connectivity with community for easier communication and shortening travel times.

Scale, Sustainability and Exit Plan

Scale Plan: Planning on targeting 5 rural districts, and then scaling up with proven success

Sustainability & Exit Plan: By focusing on strengthening community groups, increasing the capacity of the government, and creating the mentoring groups, the program will be sustainable because of community buy-in. We will focus on training the teachers and identifying community leaders who can continue the systems we set in place, working in conjunction with the Nepali government the entire time, so that the handover is seamless. The yearly reports and conferences with the government will provide the top-down support and understanding needed to continue providing the appropriate support and funding where needed.