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MOZAMBIQUE

Fistula Care Plus (FC+)



GOALS

Strengthen Mozambique's health system for prevention, care, reintegration and rehabilitation of obstetric fistula.
Provide accessible, quality surgical and non-surgical care.

LIFE OF ACTIVITY

January 2017 to March 2021

TOTAL USAID FUNDING

\$1,625,000

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Niassa, Nampula, and Inhambane

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

EngenderHealth (Prime awardee)
Focus Fistula (Mozambican sub-awardee)

CONTACT

Denise Calado
dcalado@usaid.gov

OVERVIEW

The high prevalence of early pregnancy and high fertility, combined with the poor quality of obstetric services, increases risks related to prolonged or obstructed labor in Mozambique. Complications may lead to obstetric fistula, resulting in lifelong disability and social stigma. An estimated 2,300 women suffer from new cases of fistula each year in Mozambique, yet access to fistula repair services remains limited across the country. The Mozambican health system's capacity to provide fistula repair services is hampered by a lack of trained staff and basic equipment. In response, USAID supports Fistula Care Plus (FC+) to increase access to and quality of fistula repair services in Mozambique.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Through FC+, USAID supports a Mozambican organization, Focus Fistula, to strengthen the clinical capacity of Mozambican health facilities and staff to deliver quality fistula repair services. Activities are undertaken in close partnership with the Government of Mozambique. In addition, Focus Fistula receives organizational capacity building support and oversight from EngenderHealth, as part of USAID's efforts to increase local capacity and commitment and increase the sustainability of health sector support.

EXPECTED RESULTS/IMPACTS

Program objectives include:

- 1) Strengthen the enabling environment to institutionalize fistula prevention, treatment, and reintegration in the public and private sectors;
- 2) Enhance community understanding and practices to prevent fistula, improve access to fistula treatment, reduce stigma, and support reintegration of women and girls with fistula;
- 3) Reduce transportation, communications, and financial barriers

to accessing preventive care, detection, treatment, and reintegration support;

- 4) Strengthen provider and health facility capacity to provide and sustain quality services for fistula prevention, detection, and treatment; and
- 5) Strengthen the evidence base for approaches to improve fistula care and scale up application of standard monitoring and evaluation indicators for prevention and treatment.

By the end of 2018, FC+ had trained 280 Mozambican health personnel in aspects of fistula prevention and/or treatment and had provided fistula repair surgeries to 140 women.