Jhpiego in Uganda

Quick Facts

Estimated total population: 1
40.1 million

Maternal mortality ratio: 2
360/100,000 live births

Infant mortality rate: 1
54/1,000 live births

Under-five mortality rate: 2
66/1,000 live births

Total fertility rate: 1
5.9

Contraceptive prevalence: 1
26% (modern methods)
27% (all methods)

HIV prevalence: 2
7.4%

Births with skilled provider: 2
57.4%

Sources:
1 Population Reference Bureau 2015 World Population Data Sheet;

Background

Jhpiego has worked in Uganda for more than 30 years, beginning in the early 1980s with a project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to train faculty from Makerere University’s Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology in reproductive health. In the late 1990s, Jhpiego focused on increasing the capacity of the Ugandan nursing, midwifery, clinical officer and medical schools under the USAID-funded Delivery of Improved Services for Health Project. Jhpiego also helped establish the Regional Center for Quality of Health Care in Uganda and seconded a Reproductive Health Advisor to the Center for nearly five years. From 2004 to 2007, Jhpiego worked in Uganda through the University Technical Assistance Project award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, helping to establish and develop a local nongovernmental organization (NGO) called Protecting Families Against AIDS, or PREFA, to scale up services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. In 2006, the USAID-funded ACCESS Program, through Jhpiego and IMA World Health, collaborated on a pilot program in the Kasese District with three faith-based organizations to increase uptake of intermittent preventive treatment to prevent malaria in pregnancy (MIP). Jhpiego also provided technical support as a subawardee to Management Sciences for Health (MSH) on a five-year Reproductive Health, Family Planning and Child Survival (STRIDES for Family Health) Project, and expanded access to high-quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services for the Ugandan Military under a subaward with RTI International.

More recently, from 2008 to 2010, the GE Foundation funded Jhpiego to conduct an infection prevention and control (IPC) project to reduce the risks of clients, their families and health workers acquiring and transmitting potentially life-threatening infections, including HIV, through accidental exposure to blood and body fluids or contaminated objects. From 2008 to 2010, the GE Foundation supported an initiative to address maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality at five health facilities in southwest Uganda through high-impact, evidence-based interventions known to reduce maternal and newborn mortality. Based on the success of this work, the GE Foundation is continuing its successful partnership with Jhpiego in Uganda by making an additional award to scale up best practices for maternal and child health in Isingiro District.
Current Work

Innovation

- With support from the Barr Foundation, Jhpiego is building the capacity of the Ministry of Health and three Ugandan NGOs to utilize the “low-dose, high-frequency” (LDHF) training approach in several technical areas: pediatric HIV, postabortion care and integration of family planning into HIV care. Together with the Ministry of Health, the three local NGOs are piloting the LDHF approach in the aforementioned technical areas. Results from these pilots will provide insight into the optimal operational processes, costs and factors for success of scaling up the LDHF training approach in Uganda.

Maternal, Newborn and Reproductive Health

- Through a three-year operational research program funded by the Saving Lives at Birth (SL@B) consortium, Jhpiego and partner organizations are working with the Ugandan Ministry of Health to reduce postpartum hemorrhage and birth asphyxia. To address these two killers simultaneously, SL@B aims to build the capacity of all providers who may be present at the time of birth, ensuring that they have the skills to prevent and rapidly respond to either or both of these complications.

- With support from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Jhpiego is working in the Karamoja region to develop long-term training capacity in maternal and newborn health (MNH) by strengthening training sites and preparing health workers to train other providers.

- With funding from the GE Foundation, Jhpiego is working in close partnership with the Ministry of Health and the local government to save the lives of women and babies in Isingiro District by delivering high-impact, evidence-based interventions. This project is building on the momentum and impact of two previous GE Foundation-funded projects, scaling up support from five health facilities to 27 in Isingiro. The project’s aim is to support Isingiro in becoming a model demonstration district for best approaches in MNH, while also providing targeted support to Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital.

Family Planning

- With support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Jhpiego is working with the Ministry of Health to expand family planning services for women in Uganda by strengthening the capacity of health care providers in 15 priority districts to deliver high-quality postpartum family planning services with an emphasis on the immediate postpartum period.
Remaining Challenges and Opportunities

Under the Millennium Development Goals, Uganda made significant progress in reducing child mortality; however, it did not achieve its goals to reduce maternal mortality. Moving forward, reducing maternal mortality and ensuring that women have access to safe, effective family planning services are prioritized under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Uganda Vision 2040. As a leader in improving the health of women and families, Jhpiego will continue to support the Ministry of Health and other partners to improve the lives of Ugandan women and their families.

Key Accomplishments

- Under the GE Foundation-funded project in Isingiro District, the quality of MNH services at the sites improved significantly, with average performance compared against MNH standards at partner facilities increasing from 45% at baseline to 78% at the second assessment. These improvements led to a marked increase in demand for services.
- Through the Saving Lives at Birth project, 604 health care providers trained in Helping Mothers Survive: Bleeding after Birth and Helping Babies Breathe are changing the outcomes at facility-based births in remote and district-level facilities in Uganda.
- With support from Barr Foundation, Jhpiego worked with the Ugandan Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to revise training materials in the technical areas of pediatric HIV, postabortion care and integration of family planning into HIV care to improve the effectiveness of training and ultimately patient care.
- Because of the UNFPA-supported program, women in parts of Uganda now have access to previously unavailable family planning services, such as postpartum IUDs. Through this program, Jhpiego has strengthened the capacity of health care workers in 15 districts to provide quality and timely postpartum family planning services to the population, by improving the knowledge and skills in modern family planning methods for over 100 health care providers.
- Using the Standards-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R®) approach to performance improvement, Jhpiego provided technical assistance to UNICEF to procure the supplies and materials necessary to implement high-impact interventions to help mothers and babies to survive.

Partners/Donors

- In Uganda, Jhpiego currently receives funding from the GE Foundation, Barr Foundation, UNICEF and UNFPA.
- Jhpiego collaborates closely with the Ugandan Ministry of Health to build the health system capacity at the national and district levels.

References

