



Action for West Africa Region Reproductive Health - Regional

Background

Action for West Africa Region-Reproductive Health (AWARE-RH) is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) with the mandate to reinforce regional institutions and capacity to address reproductive health and child survival. Abt Associates serves as a subcontractor to the AWARE-RH project primed by EngenderHealth.

Objectives

AWARE-RH focuses on Regional Training Leadership Institutions (RTLIs) and networks already existing in West Africa to proactively assist national and cross-border health programs in developing quality health services to meet local needs. The approaches applied in all project activities include:

- Using regional consultative processes to ensure regional ownership of best practices and approaches
- Facilitating the creation of diverse partnerships to implement activities, exchange technical information, and leverage resources
- Applying systematic knowledge management approaches to identify, disseminate, and apply best practices that can be adapted and replicated throughout the region
- Fostering technical leadership, marketing, and business development capacity among the RTLIs



Principal Activities

Abt Associates leads one of four USAID strategic objectives for this contract – the development and dissemination of health sector reform models region-wide. Focus areas within the Abt Associates portfolio include community-based health financing (CBHF), National Health Accounts (NHA), and reproductive health commodity security. The project is promoting CBHF schemes in the form of mutual health organizations (MHOs) as a key best practice to improve access to health services. The project is also assisting governments in the region to collect and analyze health expenditure data and to use the data for rational decision-making through the NHA process.

Progress to Date

In Cameroon, Burkina Faso, and Niger, Abt Associates is working with existing MHOs to expand their service packages to include reproductive health services. Additionally, Abt Associates is documenting best practices for MHOs currently being implemented in Senegal, Ghana, and Rwanda. Abt Associates provides technical assistance to country teams to carry out NHA activities in Benin and Ghana, and is in the planning stage in Niger. Abt Associates will also be continuing the work of PHR*plus* in assisting Mali in their NHA exercise, in coordination with the USAID bilateral project, Increased Utilization of High Impact Health Services, that Abt Associates is leading in Mali. AWARE-RH has hosted two regional NHA training workshops, one Anglophone and one Francophone, on the NHA survey process. Abt Associates has also carried out a donor mapping study of reproductive health activities and a comprehensive literature review documenting best practices for corporate social responsibility in health.

Client: USAID
Duration: 2003-2008

Project Team:
EngenderHealth (prime)
Abt Associates Inc.
Academy for Educational
Development
Management Sciences
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Abt Associates Inc.

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International Health Division



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Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Mali	Senegal
Benin	Georgia	Mauritius	South Africa
Bolivia	Ghana	Mexico	Tajikistan
Botswana	Guatemala	Morocco	Tanzania
Brazil	Guyana	Myanmar	Tunisia
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Cambodia	India	Nicaragua	Ukraine
China	Indonesia	Niger	Uzbekistan
Congo, Democratic Rep	Iraq	Nigeria	Yemen
Congo, People's Rep	Jordan	Pakistan	Zambia
Côte d'Ivoire	Kazakhstan	Paraguay	Zanzibar
Dominican Republic	Kenya	Peru	Zimbabwe

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