Issues, Goals, and Objectives: Building the Foundation

Supplemental Background Notes

This unit should be approached with special attention to the concerns of pregnant women and their families in determining long-term goals versus short-term objectives. Consider the national, subnational, and community-level policy environment for maternal health.

Modifications to Activities

Key FP/RH Issues

- Proceed as instructed in the manual, replacing the definition of reproductive health with the six pillars of safe motherhood.

Developing an Advocacy Goal

- Proceed as instructed in the manual, drawing on the maternal health-specific examples listed below of the difference between an issue, goal, and objective.

Example 1:
Advocacy Issue: Prevention of malaria during pregnancy.
Advocacy Goal: Sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) available to all pregnant women seeking antenatal care and delivery services at public hospitals.
Advocacy Objective: By 2005, secure funding from the Ministry of Health to implement a demonstration site to determine how best to offer this treatment to pregnant women.

Example 2:
Advocacy Issue: Lack of trained/licensed midwives in the province.
Advocacy Goal: One trained/licensed midwife for each village in the province.
Advocacy Objective: Within 12 months, the Provincial Department of Health will appoint at least one midwifery teacher in each of the public midwifery schools.

Setting Advocacy Objectives

- Proceed as instructed in the manual.

- Maternal Health Handout III.2.1: The “Six Pillars” of Safe Motherhood

- Maternal Health Handout III.2.2: Developing an Advocacy Goal and Objective
The “Six Pillars” of Safe Motherhood

The basic principles of safe motherhood are neither new nor controversial. They are considered the “six pillars” of safe motherhood:

1. **Family Planning**—to ensure that individuals and couples have the information and services to plan the timing, number, and spacing of pregnancies.

2. **Antenatal Care**—to provide vitamin supplements, vaccinations, and screen for risk factors in order to prevent complications where possible, and to ensure that complications of pregnancy are detected early and treated appropriately.

3. **Obstetric Care**—to ensure that all birth attendants have the knowledge, skills, and equipment to perform a clean and safe delivery, and to ensure that emergency care for high-risk pregnancies and complications is made available to all women who need it.

4. **Postnatal Care**—to ensure that postpartum care is provided to mother and baby, including lactation assistance, provision of family planning services, and managing danger signs.

5. **Postabortion Care**—to prevent complications where possible and ensure that complications of abortion are detected early and treated appropriately; to refer other reproductive health problems; and to provide family planning methods as needed.

6. **STD/HIV/AIDS Control**—to screen, prevent, and manage transmission to baby; to assess risk for future infection; to provide voluntary counseling and testing; to encourage prevention; and where appropriate to expand services to address mother to child transmission.
Developing an Advocacy Goal and Objective

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