Revitalization and Expansion of BFHI (Community, Mother-Baby friendly, neo natal care unit) in Zambia

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Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative

- 1993-1997 - 46 Health facility declared baby friendly with great support from UNICEF.

- Strong Mother support groups were formed country wide.

- Support from Breastfeeding Association of Zambia in implementation of BFHI especially in the formation and training of Mother Support Groups
What after 1997?

- Knowledge about HIV transmission through breast milk (Gray area).
- Funding from UNICEF reduced tremendously.
- Movement of key/strong staff

Response to decline in implementation

- Evaluation done in 1997. Key findings were:
  - Some mother support group members were more knowledgeable in key issues than health personnel
  - Confirmed Information gap on HIV and Breastfeeding. Battle between PMTCT & BF groups.
  - Staff turnover which was both positive and negative. BFHI principles where planted in facilities where it was absent and other facilities suffered loss of implementing staff.
From 2000

- The coming of LINKAGES –AED; working through BAZ and NFNC. Kept the fire burning.
- In 2000 there was re-training in lactation management for Ndola and Kabwe districts which included HIV issues.
- Later with the assistance from the Ndola Demonstration Project a number of facilities were trained on BFHI with support from the LINKAGES project. The results from the project gave some hope on breast feeding promotion.
- PMTCT pilot project working group been conducting trainings in HIV and Infant feeding and Breastfeeding counselling.
- BFHI assessors team trained in 2003

Efforts towards Revitalizing BFHI?

- UNICEF has recruited a BFHI/ IYCF co-ordinator to assist with implementation in the Ministry of Health.
- BFHI incorporated in:
  - Food and Nutrition Policy
  - IYCF operational strategy
  - WHO IYCF counselling: An integrated course
  - PMTCT training manual
  - Technical planning updates for MoH
  - Performance Assessment tools have incorporated BFHI
Cont’d
- BFHI Part of the PMTCT & Paediatric Care Scale up plan.
- Incorporated BFHI in global fund
- BFHI in the MoH Health Strategic Plan
- Streamlining the functions of NFNC & MoH

Current status
2006 - 15 Assessors trained in revised BFHI tools

2007 - 34 participants trained in three days BFHI training of trainers using new materials.

2007 - 102 Health workers trained in IYCF- five out of nine provinces have at least 3 trainers
BFHI Assessments

2007 - BFHI Self Appraisals -
- 48 facilities in 2 provinces
  - Used the revised BFHI tools
  - Ten Steps
  - The Code (Now Legislation)
  - HIV and Infant feeding
  - Mother Friendly Care

Challenges

Staffing
- Inadequate staffing at national; and provincial level staff to support lower levels.
- Few staff trained at provincial, district & facility levels in BFHI.
- High staff turn over

Financial and technical resources
- Inadequate financial and technical resources
Cont’d

Counseling of Mothers
◆ Inadequacy of Infant feeding counselling for HIV positive mothers.

Monitoring and evaluation
◆ Challenge to identify indicators suitable for routine Health Management Information System.
◆ Follow up System not yet operational
◆ management of assessment data.

Government removal of tax on infant formula. We expect influx of infant formula in the country and a danger of spill over.

Community level Challenges
◆ Some support groups exist but need to be up dated on current information.
◆ Training package for support groups not standardized.
◆ No inventory of support groups.
 Targets in the IYCF strategic Plan 2006 -2010

- Early initiation - 51 to 59%
- Exclusive breastfeeding -41%-60%
- Baby Friendly Facilities - 60

NEXT STEPS

- Human resource
  - Advocating for more staff to be trained at:
    - national level (MoH)
    - Provincial and district levels
  - Finalise the adaptation of training packages (pre-testing 10 -23 March 2008).
- Resource mobilization for implementation of IYCF strategy.
- Implement the training scale up plan for 2008.
Cont’d

- Monitoring and evaluation
  - Advocate to HMIS to include IYCF indicators.
  - Advocate to Health workers to Follow up feeding practices on revised children clinic card.

- Strengthen links with the Enforcement officers

- Ministry of Health has put up activities to mitigate effects following removal of tax on infant formula.

- UNICEF has come up strongly to assist the Ministry of Health implement activities which will mitigate the effects; following removal of VAT from infant formula.

Cont’d

- Baby Friendly Community Initiative
  - Plans to take Inventory of support groups

  - Develop a training package for support groups.

  - Conduct training for community support groups.
  - Establish centres of learning/best practices
In all the activities UNICEF is the major sponsor in terms of funding and technical assistance.

Government has also allocated funds in this year's budget as support to the health strategic Plan.

Other sponsors include WHO and USAID.

The Minister of Health, Dr Chituwo and the Deputy Minister Dr Puma have been very supportive in IYCF activities.