ENABLE
TOWARDS AN AIDS-FREE GENERATION

PROGRESS UPDATE #5  JANUARY 2018
Enable aims to reduce mortality rates amongst children under five in the O R Tambo district in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, one of the poorest districts in one of the most under-served provinces in the country.

We are delighted to share the latest update on the achievements of Enable with you. During these last six months we have made several notable breakthroughs. We have now trained our full cohort of 30 Mentor Mothers. The Mentor Mothers are bringing integrated maternal and child health information and services directly into the homes of vulnerable children, pregnant women and their families who otherwise would not be able to get to the clinic or hospital.

MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV RATE

0% Rate of mother to child transmission of HIV in target households

MOBILE CLINICS

Regular mobile clinics are now visiting the region, which are vital for medicines and treatment in remote areas

17 New Mentor Mothers have now been trained bringing the total to 30 out in the field

PARTNERSHIPS

Strong partnerships with local organisations to strengthen and enhance the healthcare system

IMPROVING MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

A significant development since our previous update has been the recruitment of 17 new Mentor Mothers who, again, are from the community where they will be working. We worked with our partner PHARE in the selection process to ensure that we recruited Mentor Mothers who can best meet the needs of the women and children.

Our target areas have traditionally seen many women give birth at home with no skilled care. With perinatal mortality rates 21% higher for home births when compared to those in facilities, our Mentor Mothers have taken this as a priority area. As a result of information and support, only 12 (4.8%) of our mothers have delivered their babies either at home or on the way to the hospital. This represents a considerable change in attitude and is remarkable given the challenges with transport and access.

OUR MENTOR MOTHERS ARE TRULY WORKING IN SOME OF THE MOST REMOTE RURAL AREAS, WITH VERY POOR INFRASTRUCTURE.

PARTNERSHIPS IMPROVING THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Working in partnership with best-placed and innovative partners helps provide vital, joined up services within Enable’s target areas. As mentioned in the previous report, we have begun working with the Rural Health Advocacy Project (RHAP), based at Witwatersrand University, which has selected the Mankosi/Canzibe area as one of two national ‘learning hubs’ where they are focusing on advancing for improved health services. We are working together with RHAP to provide them with an ‘ear to the ground’ in terms of our contact with the local communities and the closeness with which we work with those most affected by poor health service provision.

When Canzibe Hospital recently went from three doctors to one doctor in the space of a few months, RHAP successfully advocated for the appointment of 4 new doctors.

Our Supervisors took part in a human rights and paralegal training through the Bulungula Incubator. This brought together nine organisations and gave participants a better understanding of their human rights so that they can advocate for better services, access the correct legal services and obtain referrals when necessary.

We are very pleased to report that monthly mobile clinics are now visiting the project site, using Mankosi Clinic as a project base. This will make a significant lasting difference to the communities we support, given the very rural setting of Enable and the long distances on poor roads. Many of the population must travel to access treatment. Additionally, we are continuing to work with an NGO consortium, Stop Stock Outs, in order to try and combat clinic stock outs. Improved availability of medicines has been reported in this period, a significant development as stock outs are common in the area, but we will need to maintain our joint advocacy efforts to ensure this remains on an upward trend.

REACHING OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY

The stand out achievement of the project so far has been a 0% mother-to-child transmission of HIV rate among our target households, despite the fact that nearly 27% of the mothers we work with are HIV+. Our Mentor Mothers have been working hard to explain how to prevent contracting and transmitting the virus, and the importance of testing and adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) for those women who test positive. As a result, 93.4% of HIV+ mothers are currently accessing treatment, up from 79.2% in the previous reporting period and 69% of women are adhering to treatment, up from 47%.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Children have been weighed and over 80% of children who were identified as being underweight-for-age are either improving or rehabilitated

Strong partnerships with local organisations to strengthen and enhance the healthcare system

Antenatal Care Appointment Attendance

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Children Under 5 with Full Immunisation Records

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Access to Treatment of HIV+ Mothers

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**IMMEDIATE GOALS**

- **Support our 30 Mentor Mothers activities so they can meaningfully work with five new families each month and provide ongoing training with a visit from Philani in December 2017.**
- **Increase percentage of HIV+ pregnant women and mothers adhering to ART to 70% by the end of Year 2 (by the end of the project we aim for this to be 90%).**
- **Support new mothers, regardless of HIV status, with exclusive safe breastfeeding so that 35% are exclusively breastfeeding for at least 6 months to improve health outcomes of children (by the end of the project we aim for 50%).**
- **Ensure 50% of children have a full immunisation record and are at their healthy weight by the end of Year 2 (by the end of the project we aim for both of these to be 70%).**
- **Ensure continued mobile clinic visits and advocacy against stock out.**
- **Build our evidence base with impact data on key health indicators, supported by a visit from Stellenbosch University Research Team.**

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