

## Kenya Country Story Continues 2007 - 2010

**Through effective collaboration the partners work with the Ministry of Health to introduce the guide to fostering change, identify, document and plan to scale-up effective practices and successfully advocate for the provision of a national budget line for contraceptives. Compendium of best practices was published by the Ministry of Health in 2010**

WHO is collaborating with the Government of Kenya, Ministry of Health (MOH), through the Division of Reproductive Health (DRH), in the context of the Division's Annual Operational Plan (AOP) for 2007-2008. Within this context, the following aspects of reproductive health were agreed to be of focus of a range of interventions:

- Strengthening the National Reproductive Health Programme through the adoption of the framework for implementing the WHO Global Reproductive Health Strategy: accelerating progress towards the attainment of international reproductive health goals (Implementation Framework)
- Addressing limited access to contraceptives
- Preventing adolescent pregnancy and improving the reproductive health of adolescents
- Reducing maternal mortality and improving maternal health

Given the excellent work the Kenya IBP team has done over the years, the IBP secretariat joined the team to make an initial assessment visit to Kenya in October, 2007 to

- Make initial contact with priority districts for the interventions
- Begin discussions with District Health Management Team about priority issues and possible interventions
- Meet with partners (IBP and others) to identify potential collaboration
- Test rapid assessment tools



The first meeting in Kenya was with the Best Practice (BP) Task Force that involves representatives from the Ministry of Health and many partner agencies. The team was about to begin the identification and documentation of local "best practices". The introduction of the Fostering Change Guide is being planned to help with the implementation and scaling-up of the identified best practices.

### IBP Initiative Kenya

IBP partners have maintained a programme of follow-up activities for over three years in Kenya after the initial IBP Country Meeting in 2004. Current activities focus on applying the Guide to Fostering Change to improve managerial practices to scale-up maternal and neonatal health care, family planning and HIV prevention programmes.

At the November 2007 IBP Consortium meeting Dr Soloman Marsden, representing the APHIA Coast and Rift Valley Projects led by Family Health International (FHI) and the CRTU, provided a brief overview of the achievements and challenges faced to implement the IBP plan prepared at the IBP launch, Uganda 2004. Dr Marsden felt that their success was due to the active participation of many partners and the leadership and support provided by the Ministry of Health. The Kenya success story is detailed in the IBP 2006 report.

The lessons learned were that the leadership by the Ministry of Health is crucial and co-ordination is essential. FHI's role as secretariat to the MOH in collaboration with partners was critical to supporting this leadership and co-ordination. The partnership leveraged resources, enhanced support for activities and reduced duplication. The next steps were outlined as:

- Supporting the development of an effective logistics system
- Updating additional service providers on family planning
- Mobilizing communities
- Continuing stakeholder involvement in areas of operation
- Developing a compendium of best practices in Kenya

The compendium of best practices was published by the Ministry of Health in 2010 and management of change techniques to scale up effective practices have been introduced at a number of workshops and followed up by IBP partners.

***Find out more about IBP activities in country – see Country Stories***