

Evaluation of the embedded study component on quality of essential obstetric and immediate newborn care services and family planning services in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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Funding:

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2018 – 2020

Background:

The Health Systems Strengthening for Better Maternal and Child Health Project (PDSS) is currently being implemented in 14 provincial health districts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The main goal of the PDSS is to improve coverage and quality of maternal and child health services in targeted areas through Performance-Based Financing (PBF). The PDSS is accompanied by a prospective, rigorous impact evaluation (IE) to assess the effect of PBF on health service utilization, quality of care and health outcomes.

The quality of care (QoC) provided by facility-based delivery, newborn and family planning services relates directly to the PDSS's ability to positively impact maternal and newborn mortality, which are both extremely high in DRC, as well as contraceptive uptake which is currently low. Although not yet part of the baseline survey, a direct assessment of the quality of clinical services around labor and delivery, immediate newborn care, and family planning was added to the IE design, as reliable data on the QoC for these services has generally been very limited.

Study Objective:

Measurement of service quality provided by health professionals to patients in the maternity ward (i.e. women and newborns during childbirth) and clients attending family planning consultations.

Study Design:

Cross-sectional study at IE mid-line (selected PBF facilities only) and IE endline (PBF and control facilities) in selected PDSS provinces.

Main outcomes of interest:

Estimating level of quality of care provided at PBF facilities (IE midline) and assessment of impact of PBF on quality of delivery and family planning service provision in health centers and hospitals.

Publications:

Preliminary Study Report - Quality of maternal, neonatal and reproductive care in the DRC.

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