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CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FISTULA TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

FROM HEALING TO PREVENTION

In order to address the tragedy of obstetric fistula in Mali, the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene has developed a National Strategy for the Prevention and Treatment of Fistula for the period 2009-2015. USAID supported the strategy through its comprehensive Fistula Care Project during the period of October 2008 – June 2013. Through innovative approaches based on collaboration and partnership, the project achieved its stated objective.

Following this successful experience, USAID Mali continued to support the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene through a new project: Capacity Building for Fistula Treatment and Prevention Project. The project is implemented by IntraHealth International in five regions for a five-year period in collaboration with national NGOs. It aims to increase access to high quality, sustainable, and resilient fistula treatment and prevention services in Mali.

The project’s specific objectives are:

1. Support health systems to increase availability of high quality, resilient fistula care;
2. Build the capacity of health workers for fistula diagnosis and treatment;
3. Build the capacity of health workers at the facility and in local NGOs at the community level for fistula prevention

FISTULA FULL CIRCLE

Fistula Mali project is implemented through the following strategies:

- Commitment and involvement of the high level political and administrative authorities;
- Building the capacity of health facilities at all levels of the health pyramid in fistula the prevention and treatment;
- Technical, financial and organizational capacity building of local sub-recipients;
- Promotion of gender.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FISTULA TREATMENT AND PREVENTION EXPECTED GOALS

BUDGET: \$8 million

TARGET AREAS: Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Gao Regions and Bamako

PROJECT CYCLE: 2014 – 2019

Expected goals:

- 5 regional fistula steering committees put in place to coordinate stakeholder’s activities, synergize interventions.
- 1,155 women will benefit free fistula repair with an estimated success rate of 85%.
- 100% of eligible fistula clients who benefited of fistula repair will receive family planning counseling and can choose a contraceptive method of their choice
- 20 fistula surgeons and chirurgical team are trained in the five treatment sites.

This systemic health approach will improve the sustainability of services for fistula prevention and treatment.