

Building Consensus and Capacity **National Reproductive Health Policy and Training**

To provide a clear and unified framework for establishing and sustaining quality family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) services in Rwanda, the PRIME II Project collaborated with the Ministry of Health (MOH), the government, and other donors and agencies to draft a national reproductive health policy. After refinement by a working group of PRIME, UNFPA and *Direction des Soins de Santé* (DSS), the policy was signed by the minister of health on July 22, 2003. The policy includes six priority components:

- Maternal and child health
- Family planning
- Prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections
- Adolescent reproductive health
- Prevention and treatment of sexual violence
- Increasing women's decision-making authority in FP/RH.

Improving Delivery of Priority Services

While dissemination of the national policy throughout the country will represent an important step in establishing more consistent services, much work remains to be done to improve service delivery. A performance needs assessment carried out by PRIME revealed gaps in all six of the national policy's priority components. To help address these gaps, PRIME has assisted the MOH in revising FP/RH standards, holding workshops for supervisors, integrating gender sensitivity into FP/RH activities, and strengthening in-service training for providers of FP/RH services.

Strengthening Pre-Service Training

An effort to improve nursing school pre-service training began with an assessment of teacher strengths and weaknesses conducted by PRIME in May 2001. The study found that only 17% of teachers had been instructed in training methodology and just 9% had received refresher training in RH; 80% lacked access to recent publications and reference materials on FP/RH. To address such needs while building on the teachers' strengths, PRIME helped develop an action plan and budget to strengthen human resources quality and capacity and to line-up partners for complementary financing and support of selected components of the plan. PRIME is assisting the Ministry of Education to design training modules in family planning and safe motherhood. Future activities include finishing addi-



Rwanda Program

- Primary Providers, Performance Improvement
- Policy and Training
- *Mutuelles*
- PMTCT
- Consumer Perspectives

PRIME II Rwanda Country Office
Rukiri, zone II – No 24 REMERA
Plot No. 8502
P.O. Box 6199
Kigali, Rwanda
Tel: 250-83341/516484
Fax: 250-516485
intrah@rwanda1.com

PRIME II

IntraHealth International
1700 Airport Road, Suite 300 CB 8100
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-8100
Tel: 919-966-5636 Fax: 919-966-6816
intrah@intrah.org www.prime2.org



tional modules, collaborating with HealthNet International on a study of the nursing workforce, and training nursing school practicum trainers.

Making Services Gender Sensitive

After assessing the gender sensitivity of provider performance at 41 sites in August 2001, PRIME field-tested a set of draft Gender Sensitivity Assessment Tools for FP/RH Service Providers and Managers in Kabgayi health district. Service managers have formulated a plan to improve services through more extensive application of the tools, and PRIME will follow-up with providers to determine the extent to which the tools have been applied and the extent to which application has resulted in service improvements such as increased male involvement in safe motherhood and other RH services.

Getting Out the Family Planning Message

PRIME is also assisting the MOH in a national Behavior Change Communication/Information, Education and Communication campaign to promote family planning. Using a logo, flipchart, posters and brochures, family planning messages are being tested with providers and community members in five provinces. Key partners in this effort include UNFPA, USAID, the National Office of Population (ONAPO) and WHO.

These national-level efforts in policy, training, gender sensitivity and community outreach complement and support PRIME's work to improve primary FP/RH services on the ground in seven of Rwanda's 39 health districts.



PRIME II

Suggested citation:
Nelson D. *Building Consensus and Capacity: National Reproductive Health Policy and Training* 11/2003 (PRIME PAGES: RW-2)

Photo Credit:
Kristin Cooney



This publication was produced by the PRIME II Project and was made possible through support provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development under the terms of Grant Number HRN-A-00-99-00022-00. The views expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of IntraHealth International or the U.S. Agency for International Development.