



Integrated Family Planning Outreach Activities

This tool was adapted from the East Africa's Family Planning Toolkit under the Kenya Urban Reproductive Health Initiative. <https://tciurbanhealth.org/topic/mentorship-larc-participant-learning-resource-package/>

What are Reproductive Health/Family Planning Outreach Services?

- Reproductive health/family planning (RH/FP) services provided by a mobile team of trained service providers. Such services may be provided at:
 - Lower-level health facilities
 - Community-owned facilities such as schools, social halls, community grounds, etc.
- In-reach services – when RH/FP services are carried out within a health facility but efforts have been made to scale up the service

Rationale for Outreach RH/FP Services

- Unmet need for family planning is high (x) and even higher (x) among poorer women
- Outreach services help to minimize barriers to accessing services such as distance, negative facility perceptions, cost, etc.
- Opportunity for closer interaction between facility and community

Selecting Sites for Outreach Services

- Factors to consider
 - Population
 - Location
 - Amenities
 - Personnel
 - Mismatch between demand and supply

Key Resources to Consider

- Trained staff
- Commodity/supplies availability
- Transport
- Infrastructure at community sites
- Information, education, and communication materials
- Monitoring and evaluation

Roles and Responsibilities

- Staff to be involved:
 - Clinical staff
 - Administrative staff
 - Community
 - Who else?

Integration of Services

- Integration is the best practice during outreach services, it
 - Allows multiple services to be offered in one location – improves access and convenience for clients
 - Enables providers to address clients more holistically
 - Services can be cheaper and cost effective
- **HOWEVER,**
 - Consider the skills that staff have to offer integrated services
 - Avoid “overintegrating” services

Promotional / Mobilization Activities

- Ways of mobilization include:
 - Using community health workers
 - Information, education, and communication campaigns (posters, brochures)
 - Mass media – community radio, TV
 - Health talks – health facility, churches, etc.
 - Community based organizations
 - Community meetings, such as town meetings, church meetings

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Important to collect field data and collate with facility data
- If family planning outreaches are part of routine services, it is recommended that separate registers for outreach services be maintained
- Periodically review outreach data and compare with facility data
- Data can be used to make decision of where to conduct follow up activities

Possible Challenges to Consider

- Transport difficulties
- Financial constraints
- Inadequate demand
- Follow up care and support
- Lack of adequate commodities and supplies