

Sudan PAC Network Newsletter

About Sudan PAC network

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Sudan Post Abortion Care Network

is a project of Safe International Organization based in Khartoum. It is recognized nationally as a pioneer in increasing access to quality post - abortion care.

The network activities began formally in 2007 with reconstruction of the previous Post- Abortion Care Group in Sudan.

The establishment of the network is generously supported by Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA).

The Network Vision is (For Better Health &

Perpetual Women's life in Sudan).

The network mission

is to enhance information sharing; provide technical updates for the PAC providers, including updates on infection prevention; harmonize data collection, establish a monitoring team, update and institutionalize policies, standards and guidelines for abortion and post-abortion care; and ensure availability of MVA kits. The network will also ensure routine documentation of its activities and carry out surveys and researches on unsafe abortion in Sudan.



Call For Membership

The network

is currently implementing study on the impact of unsafe abortion on maternal mortality. Moreover PAC services were provided in Elbangadid hospital, Academy Charity Hospital and

The PAC network was established and now is coordinating by Safe International organization

Membership open for all PAC providers, opinion leaders and all committed persons.

Safe International upgraded PAC facilities in Khartoum

During October 2007 Safe International and Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) supported 7 private clinics and 2 hospitals in Khartoum with medical equipments and MVA kits to encourage these facilities to provide good quality of PAC services. The facilities already started to report on the numbers of clients on monthly basis.



Photos & Comments

During October 2007, the first PAC network meeting held at Academy Charity Hospital attended by 28 network members. The participants included DKT and The Federal and State Ministry of Health representatives. Among other things, participants discussed the network concept and structure, vision, mission statements and network objectives. The participants were updated on the baseline study and PAC guidelines development process. During the meeting, two working groups were formed to prepare draft on network vision, mission and objectives and to review the abortion laws in Sudan, and prepare policy proposal. The meeting also agreed that the guidelines on PAC needed more



discussions before the submission to RH directorate (Federal Ministry of Health).

The Sudanese PAC team in Egypt



As a result of the study tour visit to Egypt Gynuity technical assistance team will visit Sudan in February to meet with policy makers and PAC providers.

During December 2007, four of Sudanese PAC network members conducted study tour to Egypt to learn about Egyptian experience on the use of Miso-prostol in incomplete abortion. The tour was supported by PPFA & Gynuity.

Good results and recommendations were delivered during this study tour.

PAC History in Sudan

The Sudanese woman's lifetime risk of dying from pregnancy-related causes is estimated at 1 in 30. The maternal mortality ratio is estimated at 590 deaths per 100,000 live births. However, there are significant disparities, ranging from 150 – 1,100 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Although there are no official statistics on the magnitude of unsafe abortion and its contribution to maternal morbidity and mortality,* complications of unsafe abortions are seen daily in the health facilities.

However, abortion in Sudan is allowed by law only when the life of the mother is in danger.

In July 2002, a group of four doctors and two nurses were sent to Kenya with support from PFFA for training in Post-Abortion Care (PAC). This group was actually composed of senior health providers that expected to initiate PAC services in Sudan. After the training and technical assistance from PFFA, the six providers formed the Post-Abortion Care Group in Sudan. The group of providers has continued to meet regularly to plan activities, share information and advocate for PAC services.

Some of the activities that the Post-Abortion Care Group has conducted since inception include:

A survey on the advantages of using the Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) kit Vis a Vis traditional surgical method to treat incomplete abortions. The findings of this survey were presented at a conference of the Sudanese Obstetrics and Gynecological Society. This was the turning point for post-abortion care in Sudan and triggered a series of discussions and workshops with

several stakeholders, including the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH). As a result, FMOH (The RH directorate) and the Sudanese Obstetric and Gynecology Society agreed to allow the first training course on PAC in Sudan, including practical training at the Academic Charity Hospital in December 2003. The PAC Group with support and technical assistance from PFFA organized the course. Twelve doctors, mainly working in rural areas of Khartoum State, participated in the course.

The general director of the Academic Charity Hospital under the auspices of the PAC Group carried out a study on the efficiency and the safety of the MVA procedure after the training. The results of the study were presented in the Conference of Sudanese Obstetrics and Gynecology Society in 2005 and highlighted the principles of PAC using MVA and that MVA is a safe, efficient and cost effective method for treating all types of abortions. The activities of the PAC group contributed to the FMOH adoption of the concept of PAC / MVA as the treatment of choice for incomplete abortions. The directorate of RH (FMOH) thereafter trained a big number of providers with the technical assistance from PFFA and Safe International.

The group advocates for provision of PAC at all levels of health system within government sector and private sector as well.

The group initially faced resistance

from the government and medical practitioners. However, the resistance slowly changed when the group presented the findings of study on use of MVA at the Conference of the Sudanese Obstetrics and Gynecology Society in 2003.

The efforts of the group have resulted in the training of health providers, and institutionalization of PAC into the health policies to treat incomplete abortions and complications of unsafe abortion. In addition, the Ministry of Health has instituted Manual Vacuum Aspiration kits into the medical supply list and purchased 600 kits in 2006. In addition, there exists a strong network of post-abortion care providers, consisting of doctors and nurses from the public and private sector. There is need, however, to further strengthen the PAC group through the restructuring and formalizing of a PAC network. A more structured network will enhance information sharing; provide technical updates for the PAC providers, including updates on infection prevention; harmonize data collection; establish a monitoring team, update and institutionalize policies, standards and guidelines for post-abortion care; and ensure availability of MVA kits. The network will also ensure routine documentation of its activities and carry out surveys and researches on unsafe abortion in Sudan. These activities will contribute to increasing access to quality post-abortion care services.

Pioneers PAC Group members trained in Nairobi in 2002 by PFFA

1. **Dr. Bashier Eljely**
2. **Dr. Elfadil Ekajam**
3. **Dr. Salma Awad**
4. **Dr. Abedrhman Khalid**
5. **Sister. Elham Abdullah**
6. **Sister .Amira Elnour**

*SMS Khartoum 1999



About Safe International

Safe International is a non – governmental, non- profit, national organization, established in November 2000 with the mission to improve the quality of life in Sudan by raising awareness, changing risk-taking behavior and promoting access to quality reproductive health and primary health care services. Between 2002 and 2006, Safe International with support from PFFA implemented a project in Khartoum entitled “Advocacy, Awareness and Service Delivery to Factory Workers.” Through the project’s youth program, peer youth educators were trained to provide sexuality education and prevention of HIV/AIDS at the community. The project facilitators provide referrals as well as information on a wide range of sexual and reproductive health topics, such as STI prevention and treatment, HIV/AIDS, consequences of FGC, benefits of child spacing and the importance of emergency obstetric care for preventing pregnancy related complications. For factories that have on-site health clinics, Safe International has introduced family planning, STI treatment and other SRH services. By providing essential information and creating linkages to a broader referral system, Safe International will make SRH more accessible and sustainable for the residents of Khartoum.

Since 2003, Safe International has taken the lead role in training and providing PAC services. Safe International is a strong advocate for PAC services and has worked in close collaboration with MOH to improve access. Safe international currently hosts the PAC network in Sudan and it coordinates the activities of the network.

Vision

Access for health knowledge and services for all Sudanese population.

Mission

To improve the quality of life through providing knowledge, raising awareness, changing risk- taking behavior and promoting wider utilization of accessible quality reproductive health services.

Top Areas of Work

- 1- Reproductive Health
- 2- HIV/AIDS
3. Peer Education

Previous & current funding agencies

- Save Children Fund
- British Embassy
- MSF Holland
- University of Medical Sciences &Technology
- Planned Parenthood Federation of America
- Rainbo
- International Risk Committee (IRC)

Academy Charity Hospital.
Khartoum-Extension number 3
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Sudan PAC Network

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