FROM DESPAIR TO DIGNITY - OBSTETRIC FISTULA (OF) PREVENTION/REPAIR CAMPAIGN, PAKISTAN

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BACKGROUND:
• Nonavailability and inaccessibility of Obstetric care service.
• High Fertility
• Early marriages
• Poverty &
• Lack of education leading to Vesicovaginal Fistula (VVF) and Rectovaginal Fistula (RVF)

FISTULA END CAMPAIGN:
Pakistan National Forum on Women’s Health (PNFWH) in collaboration with UNFPA engaging in a campaign to end fistula since 2005.

OBJECTIVE:
• Free Services of surgical treatment for women living with Obst. fistula,
• Enhancing Treatment Technical Capacity through training of surgeons.
• Enhancing Accessibility of Patient to Quality Surgical treatment by providing the travelling cost
• Awareness on Promotion of Safe Delivery at community level
• Rehabilitation of fistula patient to live with dignity

Achievement (till June 2013)
Fistula Centres/Out Reach Camps Total Numbers of Fistula operated till date Iatrogenic Fistula Personnel Trained In Fistula Management
% age Doctors HCP Total
Karachi 919 27% 17 17 34
Peshawar 297 55% 9 13 22
Lahore 151 69% 6 10 16
Multan 263 65% 5 10 15
Larkana 228 31% 4 4 8
Quetta 300 11% 6 8 14
Islamabad 284 14% 7 10 17
Hyderabad 262 35% 2 7 9
Abbottabad 17 64% 1 0 1
Camps 153 4% - - -
Total 2774 37% 57 59 136

Challenges:
• Prevention of Obstetric fistula, Cultural & Social obstacles
• Iatrogenic fistula
• women deliver at home, (80%) without assistance – SBA
• Integration of family planning services with health services.
• Social reintegration & Rehabilitation?
• Limited Capacity of health department to respond this huge challenge
• Strategies to integrate fistula with RH services & link to population sector,
• safe motherhood services
• Sustainability!!!!!!!

Future Strategies:
• Capacity building of Midlevel health care providers for task shifting.
• Promotion of modern methods of family planning practices through behavior change communication at the community level.
• Promotion of women’s right and health issue including discouraging early child marriages.
• Rehabilitation and reintegration of fistula patient in the community.