BACKGROUND

Curamericas Guatemala does the majority of its work in the rural communities of one of the most remote and impoverished areas of the highlands of northwestern Huehuetenango, Guatemala. The organization operates Casas Maternas (Maternity Clinics) in each of the communities that it serves. Each Casa Materna is staffed 24-hours each day in order provide needed maternal and newborn care to the indigenous population of the highlands.

Setting

Curamericas currently works in the Department of Huehuetenango in the districts of San Miguel Acatán, Santa Eulalia, and San Sebastian Coatán. Curamericas Guatemala uses a three-pronged strategy that focuses on community empowerment, provision of health services and health education that is culturally sensitive.

METHODOLOGY

Organizational Methodology

Curamericas Guatemala uses a three-pronged strategy that focuses on community empowerment, provision of health services and health education that is culturally sensitive.

Community Based, Impact-Oriented (CBIO) Methodology

1. Establish a relationship between the program and the community
2. Determine the most frequent, serious, preventable, or treatable diseases and community health priorities
3. Focus efforts on the highest priority health problems
4. Monitor and evaluate service outcomes, results, and impact
5. Redefine the frequent, serious, preventable, or treatable diseases and community health priorities

Aims

Organizational

• Establish sustainable community driven public health programs aligned with internationally accepted standards and long-term public health goals

Personal

• Improve my knowledge of Maternal and Child Health
• Improve my knowledge of health care provision in a low-resource setting
• Improve my Spanish

FINDINGS

Distribution of Complications

Pregnancy, 18%
Delivery, 70%
Post-Delivery, 6%

Focus Group Interviews

Prioritization of indicators and M&E tasks such as data collection is vital to improving the M&E process and ensuring staff satisfaction.

Birth Complications Registry

Standardization of physical Birth Complication Registry of each Casa Materna Rural (rural Maternity Clinic) is necessary to speed up the data transmission process (from paper to electronic).

Personal

• It is important to honor the desires and needs of in-country staff as they intimately understand the context, work flow, and needs of the community.
• Technology is not always the solution in every setting.

REFERENCES

1curamericas.org
2who.org

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