Improving the quality of family planning services in Uganda: Tested changes implemented in four districts in Western Uganda

The USAID Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) Project, in partnership with 17 United States Government implementing partners and the Ministry of Health (MOH), is implementing the Saving Mothers Giving Life (SMGL) initiative in the four districts of Kamwenge, Kyenjojo, Kabarole and Kibaale in mid-western Uganda, which registered the highest maternal mortality countrywide. One of the objectives of the initiative is to increase access to family planning information and modern contraceptive methods among women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who do not want to become pregnant, and to ensure a safe and healthy pregnancy and birth for those who wish to have children. This change package focuses on the objective of increasing access to FP information and modern contraceptive methods among women of reproductive age.

The purpose of this change package is to provide guidelines and knowledge on family planning counselling and provision to frontline health workers working at various entry points that serve women of reproductive age (15-49 years) including antenatal, postnatal, young child and adolescent clinics as well as maternity wards. Health workers should adapt the tested changes to the specific contexts in their health facilities and the resources available.

In addition, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and projects involved in reproductive health, family planning and maternal and newborn care, district health officers supervising health facilities and Ministry of Health officials working on strategies for improving family planning and maternal and newborn health will find the changes described in this report useful and can adapt them for their work as well.

The change package synthesizes learning from ASSIST’s experience in implementing quality improvement approaches to improve family planning and post-partum family planning services as a means of reducing maternal and newborn mortality in Uganda through provision of timely and appropriate modern contraceptive methods.