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From Policy to Practice: A Quality Improvement Approach Improves Antenatal Care Services in Tanzania

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*By Gaudiosa Tibaijuka
Senior Midwifery Advisor
ACCESS/JHPIEGO Tanzania*

JHPIEGO in partnership with Save the Children, Constella Futures, The Academy for Educational Development,
The American College of Nurse-Midwives and Interchurch Medical Assistance

Objectives of the presentation

- To describe the components and importance of focused antenatal care (FANC) and prevention of malaria in pregnancy (MIP) services in Tanzania
- To present findings on two years worth of implementation of a performance improvement approach applied to FANC and prevention of MIP
- To discuss lessons learned on how national policy supportive of improved maternal service provision can lead to real changes at the health facility and ultimately the national level



Background

- **MMR** 578/100,000 live births
- **NMR** 32/1,000 live births
- **ANC Visits**
 - 94% - at least one visit
 - 62% - at least 4 visits
 - 14% - 1st visit by 4th month
- **IPT₁** 52%
- **IPT₂** 22%

Source: TDHS 2004-05



Importance and Components of FANC: The Tanzania Package

- **FANC is a WHO-recommended 4 quality visit approach emphasizing timely and individualized care that is provided by a skilled attendant in order to promote maternal and newborn health and survival.**
 - Facilitates prevention, early detection and treatment of problems, diseases and complications, such as malaria
 - Birth preparedness and complication readiness
 - Health promotion and counseling through effective interpersonal skills
- **Components the FANC Tanzania Package:**
 - Protection from Malaria through use of IPT and counseling on ITNs
 - Syphilis screening and treatment for positives
 - Standard precaution practices for infection prevention
 - Health promotion and education on common health aspects
 - Nutrition
 - Prevention of HIV & other STIs
 - Infant feeding
 - Family planning
 - Opening links to PMTCT services
 - Introducing ANC Quality Improvement approach



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ANC Quality Improvement Approach

- Is a standards-based management and recognition process for improving performance and quality of health services
- Begins with specific subject matter and builds integrated platform for service delivery
- Based on use of operational, observable performance standards for on-site assessment
- Begins and develops change management skills
- Consists of four basic steps

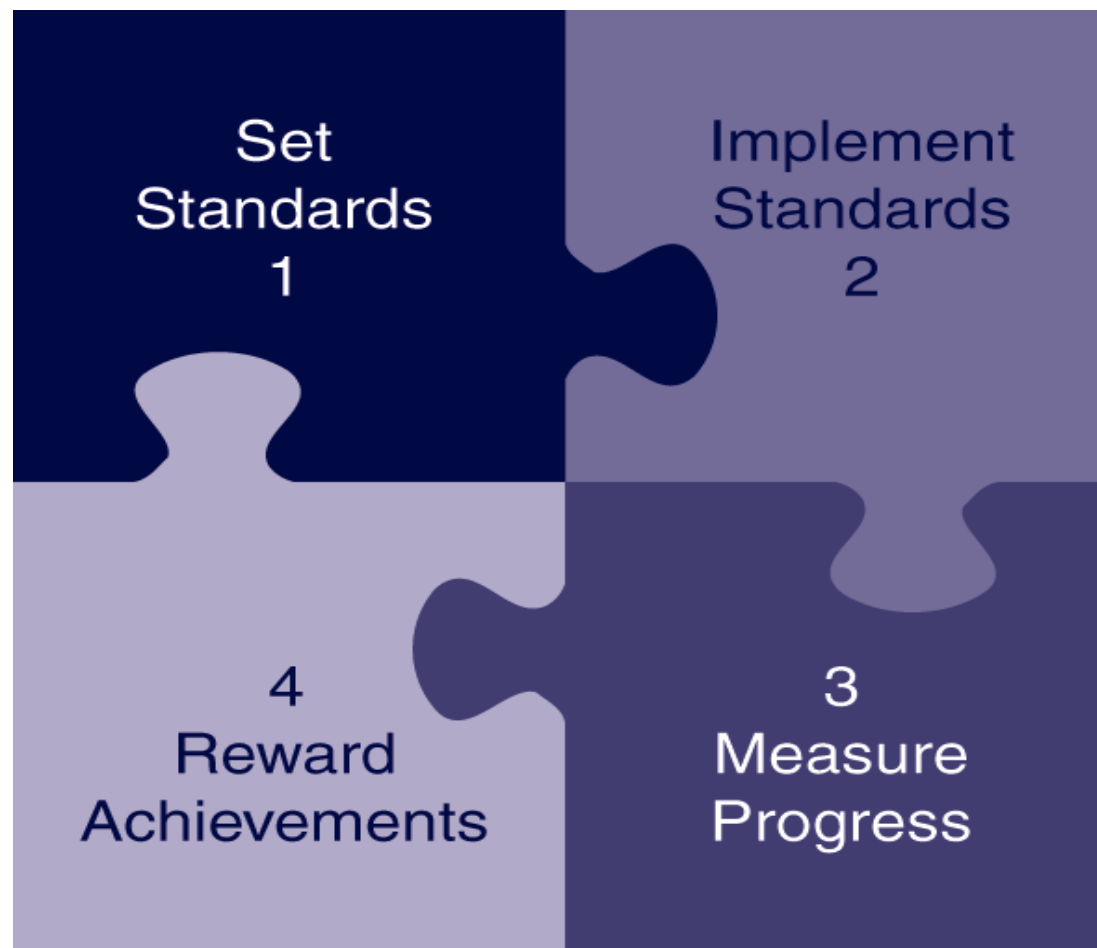


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The Four Steps of ANC Quality Improvement Approach



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ANC QI Assessment Tool

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS	VERIFICATION CRITERIA	Y,N, NA	COMMENTS
<p>The health care provider properly conducts individualized care based on national guidelines and according to findings</p>	<p>PROVIDE ROUTINE CARE – TAKE ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gives on DOT 3 tablets of SP according to the national guidelines ▪ Explains that in case she vomits within 30 minutes, the dose should be repeated ▪ Provides ferrous sulfate and folic acid or FEFOL in enough amounts to last until next visit ▪ Provides mebendazole tablets 500 mg DOT once by mouth after first trimester ▪ Give tetanus toxoid (TT) based on woman’s need according to standard guidelines 	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	



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Assessed Sections in the ANC QI

SECTIONS	TOTAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS	ACHIEVED PERFORMANCE STANDARDS	% ACHIEVED
1. FOCUSED ANTENTAL CARE	17		
2. INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (IEC)	5		
3. INFECTION PREVENTION	4		
4. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	7		
5. HUMAN, PHARMACY AND LABORATORY RESOURCES	10		
TOTAL	43		

Type of assessment: Baseline _____ Internal Assessment # _____

External Assessment #: _____ Date: _____

% ACHIEVED = ACHIEVED STANDARDS / ASSESSED STANDARDS x 100



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Examples of Performance Standards



Section 1: FANC



Section 3: IP

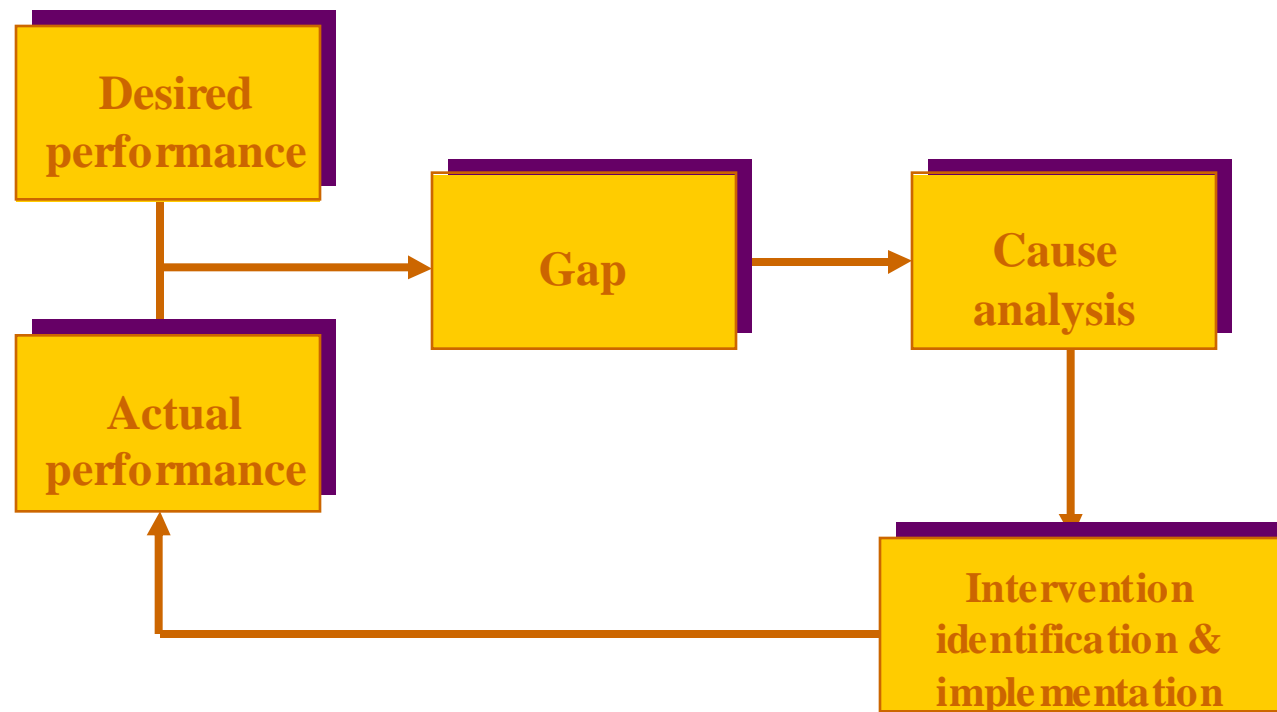


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Implementation Cycle



- Model Adapted from the International Society for Performance Improvement



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Inputs for ANC QI program

- Advocacy and joint planning
- Development and dissemination of materials
- Training trainers and supervisors
- Capacity building of facilities
 - Training of providers on FANC and QI
 - Provision of equipment and supplies
- Targeted supervision basing on QI results
- Training of PSE tutors and preceptors who in turn teaches students best practices



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Results to date

- **1,177 facilities (24%) with trained FANC providers are implementing ANC QI performance standards**
- **81 health facilities (49 hospitals, 17 health centers and 15 dispensaries) conducted and reported ANC quality assessments**
- **Of the 81 facilities, 59 (73%) showed improvements in meeting the standards per the self-reported results of their follow-up assessments**



Summary of ANC QI Results

Assessment No.	No. of HF's	Average Scores by Section (%)					Overall
		FANC	IEC	IPC	MS	HPLR	
Baseline	81	41%	35%	58%	27%	53%	43%
1st	73	58%	52%	71%	40%	63%	57%
2nd	41	57%	64%	71%	43%	64%	57%
3rd	28	62%	65%	74%	50%	66%	61%
4th	13	58%	67%	74%	54%	63%	60%
5th	1	82%	100%	100%	71%	50%	74%

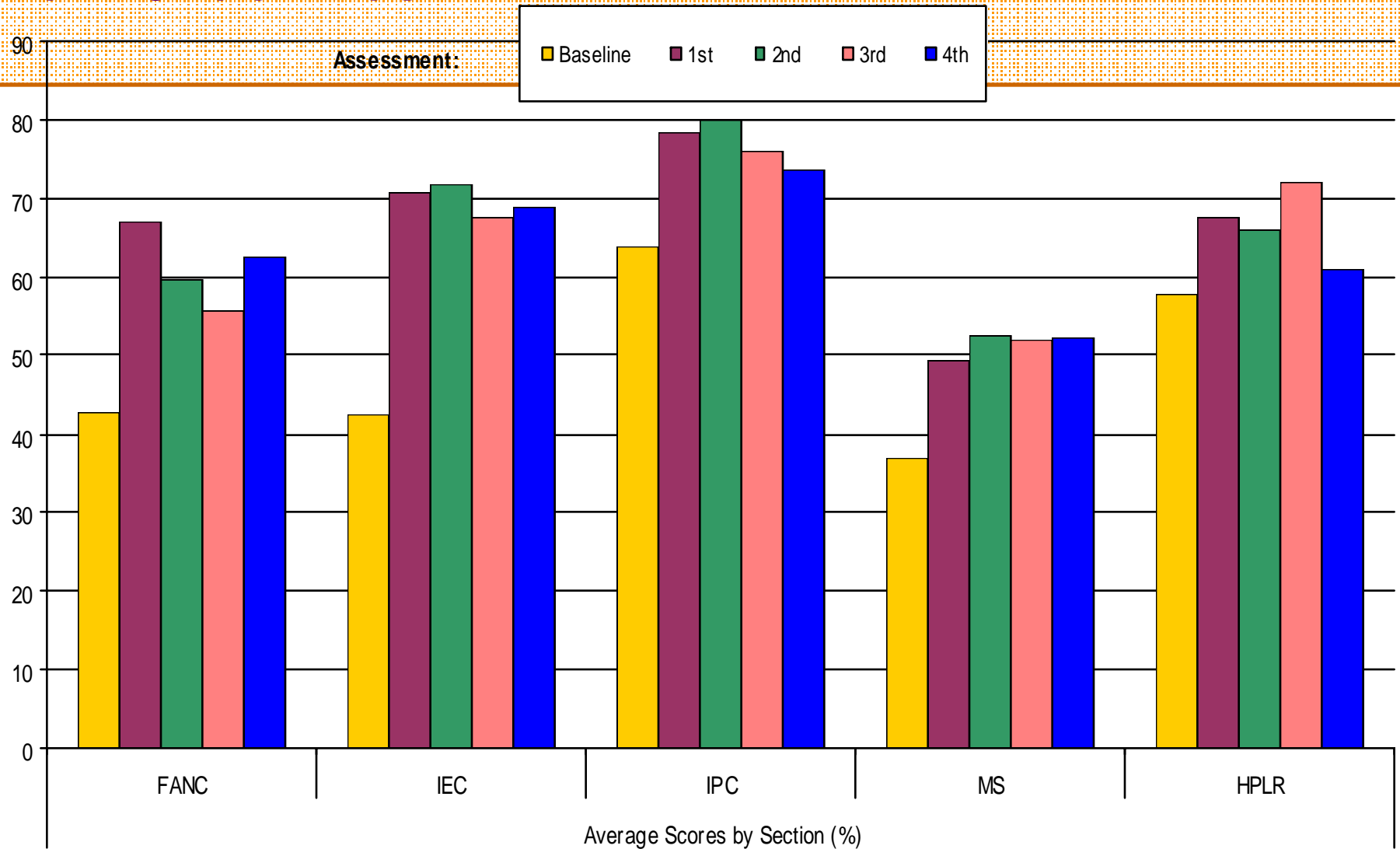


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Progress Over Time- Average Score by Section for 13 facilities



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Lessons: ANC QI is Proving to be a Managerial Tool

- Improving working relationships, decision making and taking actions such as incorporating ANC requirements into annual budgets
- If facilities know exactly what quality is and how to achieve it they become creative and start new ways to address performance gaps
- Lack of formal recognition system tends to slow down ownership of the process
- Advocacy and joint planning are promoting a *shared responsibility spirit*



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Challenges



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Planned Future Activities

- Review the ANC QI model based on lessons learnt
- Closely follow-up 33 target sites
- Finalize recognition system
- Supportive supervision for all providers through district/regional RCH coordinators guided by ANC performance standards



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Summary

- Tanzania ANC QI process has illustrated a shift from policy to practice with an important lesson that it is a managerial tool.
- Application of the tool leads to identification and addressing performance gaps which has shown improvement in quality of FANC
- Multisectoral strategies are required to promote shared responsibility in order to achieve quality of care especially where external support is required.



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Thank you for active listening!



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