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Soapbox Collaborative Basic Environmental Hygiene Training Package Pilot – The Gambia

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Background

- Maternity unit needs assessments in focus countries – India, Bangladesh, Zanzibar, Ethiopia, Gambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe
- Absence of formal training of cleaning staff across all countries
- No pre-existing training available elsewhere
Aims & Objectives

• Develop a comprehensive, participatory training package in basic IPC & environmental hygiene targeted towards low-literate maternity unit cleaning staff
• Pilot the training package
• Informal process evaluation
• Incorporate changes and revise the package for further application
Training Package Development
The Pilot

- Partners: Horizons Trust Gambia & MoH IPC Task Group
- Four maternity facilities
- Needs assessment & audit
- Local adaptation
- Training of Trainers
- Training of cleaning staff
‘Clean Box’ Approach & Training of Trainers
Training of Cleaning Staff
Output

• Capacity strengthening: 4 facilities, 9 trainers trained & approx. 50 cleaners

• Evidence of relationship changes

“We are very happy afterwards because, for me, to be frank enough, they surprised me. Because me, I don’t know that they are so much talented… I underrate them... but the time I stood in front of them to teach them, the ideas they bring out and their understanding level is very fast”

• Empowerment of neglected cadre of the workforce

• Immediate improvements to environmental hygiene/IPC standards
Competency Based Assessment Results

- **Hand washing**
  - Facility A (n=6)
  - Before training: 70%
  - After training: 90%
  - Facility B (n=8)
  - Before training: 80%
  - After training: 95%
  - Facility C (n=14)
  - Before training: 75%
  - After training: 90%

- **Spillage**
  - Facility A (n=6)
  - Before training: 60%
  - After training: 75%
  - Facility B (n=8)
  - Before training: 55%
  - After training: 70%
  - Facility C (n=14)
  - Before training: 65%
  - After training: 75%

- **Glove use**
  - Facility A (n=6)
  - Before training: 50%
  - After training: 65%
  - Facility B (n=8)
  - Before training: 55%
  - After training: 60%
  - Facility C (n=14)
  - Before training: 50%
  - After training: 65%
Strengths

• Participatory – accessible to low-literate staff
• Locally led & adapted to context
• Trainers sourced from health facilities
• Applicable beyond the maternity unit
Challenges

• Lack of capacity of MoH IPC Task Group & impact on integration of training & monitoring as standard
• Wider buy-in from Ministry of Health
• Staff & resource shortages
Opportunities

• Increasing recognition of the importance of training cleaning staff – WHO Core Components for IPC Programmes

• Increasing attention on Antimicrobial Resistance

Further work:
• Strengthen evidence around contribution of healthcare environment to infection
• Requirement for routine supervision & monitoring
• Ensure focus on cleaning & training put in broader context of quality improvement
Next steps & Recommendations

• Training package revised
• Roll out to remaining facilities in the Gambia
• Illustrated cleaning procedure guidelines (pilot underway)

• Integrated into midwifery training?
• Establish & support network of users