Community Partnerships: Building Bridges for Post Abortion Care

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Background
An estimated 800,000 abortions are performed in Kenya each year, with 26,000 women admitted to public hospitals with abortion-related complications. [1] Community engagement programs are a key strategy for reducing abortion-related morbidity and mortality through improved access to post-abortion care (PAC) and family planning services.

In 2003, the USAID PAC Working Group provided the ACQUIRE Project with funding to replicate a community mobilization model initiated in 1999 to expand community partnership for post-abortion care (COMAPAC). In Kenya working with the Society for Women and AIDS (SWAAS), local implementing partner.

SWAAS worked with 5 communities in Nakuru District to raise awareness of complications of miscarriages/unsafe abortion and the role of family planning in preventing unintended pregnancy, and supported the communities in developing action plans to address barriers to PAC and family planning services. More than 60% community members from 26 different community groups completed the community mobilization session and developed joint action plans.