

Reproductive Health among the Urban Poor: The Glory Reborn Model

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SIGNIFICANCE

- Glory Reborn, a private nonprofit faith-based organization, operates a maternity clinic serving marginalized women in poor communities in the Philippines. While the clinic offers family planning (FP) commodities for free, records indicate few clients use FP methods and many who do start using a method discontinue over time.
- In order to increase FP uptake and continuation, Glory Reborn partnered with EngenderHealth's USAID-funded VisayasHealth project to build staff capacity in the provision of postpartum FP methods, particularly long-acting reversible contraceptives including intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants.
- EngenderHealth provided clinical training on FP methods and delivered technical assistance to enable Glory Reborn staff to use the Unmet Need Reduction Strategy, which seeks to identify satisfied FP users and women with FP needs and mobilize the former to engage the latter to promote FP uptake.

METHODOLOGY

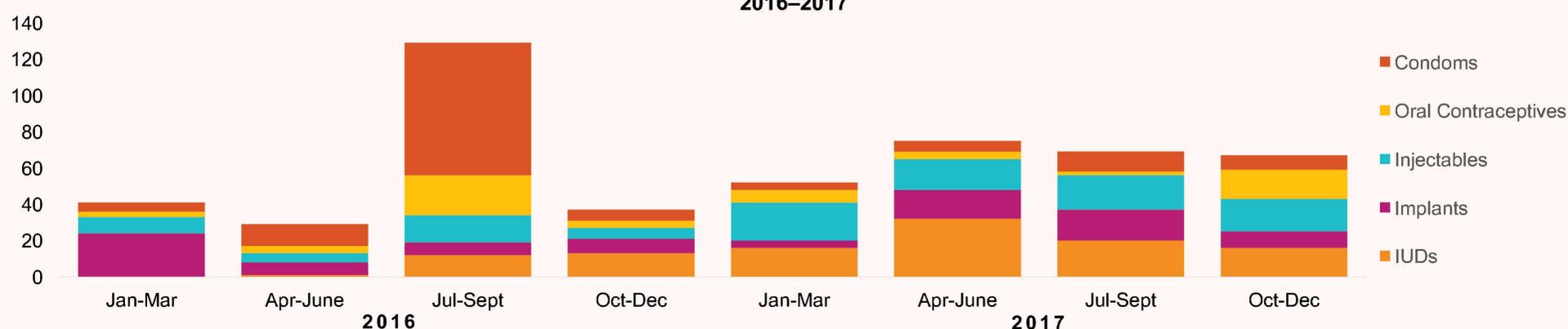
- EngenderHealth provided clinical training on IUD and implant insertion. This training aligned with national certification requirements, including accreditation standards for the national social health insurance agency, which is known as PhilHealth.
- The clinic incorporated FP advocacy into routine mothers' FP information classes held on-site and into its community outreach activities, which aim to improve health education, build relationships with community members, facilitate FP supply distribution, and support follow-up with FP clients and maternal and child health clients. The facility also introduced a routine schedule for FP days throughout the week and launched FP special event days to reduce unmet need in the community more broadly.
- To maximize impact and improve evidence-based decision making, Glory Reborn used the Unmet Need Reduction Strategy to map the catchment area and engaged satisfied users to serve as FP advocates in underserved areas and refer clients to the clinic during FP days and events.



RESULTS

- Since 2016, 15 Glory Reborn health staff completed FP competency-based training, 2 completed training on implant insertion, 2 completed training on postpartum IUD insertion, and 4 completed training on interval IUD insertion. Among those trained, 5 became PhilHealth-accredited service providers.
- Glory Reborn's FP database showed that at the end of December 2017, the clinic provided 202 clients with long-acting reversible contraceptive services.
- With newly accredited providers, the clinic has begun submitting PhilHealth claims and has stated that it views PhilHealth's FP benefit package as an important resource for improving FP uptake among rural populations.

Number of FP Services Provided at Glory Reborn
2016–2017



IMPLICATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

- This study demonstrated the value of integrating and expanding FP services in maternity clinics.
- Private facilities, like Glory Reborn's maternity clinic, are key in expanding FP service coverage. Such facilities can reduce unmet need among marginalized groups in areas unserved by public facilities if they have the financial resources to provide low-cost services without jeopardizing their operating costs and, in the case of for-profit institutions, profit margins. For example, partnerships with regional and city health offices and development partners ensured the clinic had a consistent supply of FP commodities and facilitated skills building of service providers.
- The costs of identifying and mobilizing satisfied users to support community outreach efforts were minimal, especially when compared to the return on this investment with regard to the rate of referrals and increased delivery of PhilHealth-eligible FP counseling and services at the clinic.



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