

**Increasing Demand and Accountability for
Postabortion Care and Comprehensive Abortion
Care through Partnerships with Local and
International Nongovernmental Organizations:
A Zanzibar Case Study**



Acknowledgments

#ICFP2022

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Project Name:

Expand Access to Postabortion Care in
Zanzibar (Expand PAC)

Supporting Organizations:

- EngenderHealth
- Zanzibar Fighting against Youth Challenges Organization (ZAFAYCO)
- Zanzibar Nurses Association (ZANA)

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Partnerships



Equity



Inclusion



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Presentation Outline

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- Significance/Background
- Advocacy Intervention/Activity Tested
- Methodology
- Results/Key Findings
- Policy or Program Implications/Lessons



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Significance/Background

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Partnering to Strengthen Postabortion Care

Despite significant reductions in maternal deaths, **unsafe abortion remains a critical challenge in Zanzibar**. While the policy and operational environment for postabortion care (PAC) has improved, sociocultural and religious beliefs and traditions, as well as myths and misconceptions, inhibit service uptake.

ExpandPAC is strengthening local capacity in policy advocacy and accountability of PAC and comprehensive abortion care (CAC). The project also **aims to generate evidence** to inform programming, mobilize PAC clients for services, and advocate for an improved environment for PAC and CAC services in Zanzibar.



Healthcare workers in Zanzibar



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Advocacy Intervention / Activity Tested

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- EngenderHealth **trained local partners ZAFAYCO and ZANA** on policy advocacy and accountability monitoring for PAC and CAC.
- ZAFAYCO and ZANA **worked with local PAC and CAC champions**, established open dialogues, and successfully **advocated for PAC and CAC** at national and district levels.
- The project worked with community members and religious and political leaders to **address myths and misconceptions** related to abortion.
- EngenderHealth **helped local organizations integrate a gender, youth, and social inclusion lens** into programming.



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Methodology

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- Expand PAC worked to create an enabling environment by **implementing advocacy and accountability interventions** and by **strengthening health systems**.
- EngenderHealth identified ZAFAYCO and ZANA via partner mapping and **completed organization capacity assessments** to identify areas for strengthening. Organizational capacity strengthening interventions included a values clarification for abortion activity and a gender, youth, and social inclusion integration training.
- ZAFAYCO and ZANA supported community and national dialogues and worked with PAC and CAC community and facility champions to **conduct social media campaigns, influence resource allocations, and drive the PAC and CAC agenda**.
- Expand PAC collaborated with government, facility, and community stakeholders to **co-design a transition and sustainability strategy**.
- Expand PAC identified a **high-impact minimum package of essential PAC interventions** for institutionalization to enhance efficiency and sustainability.



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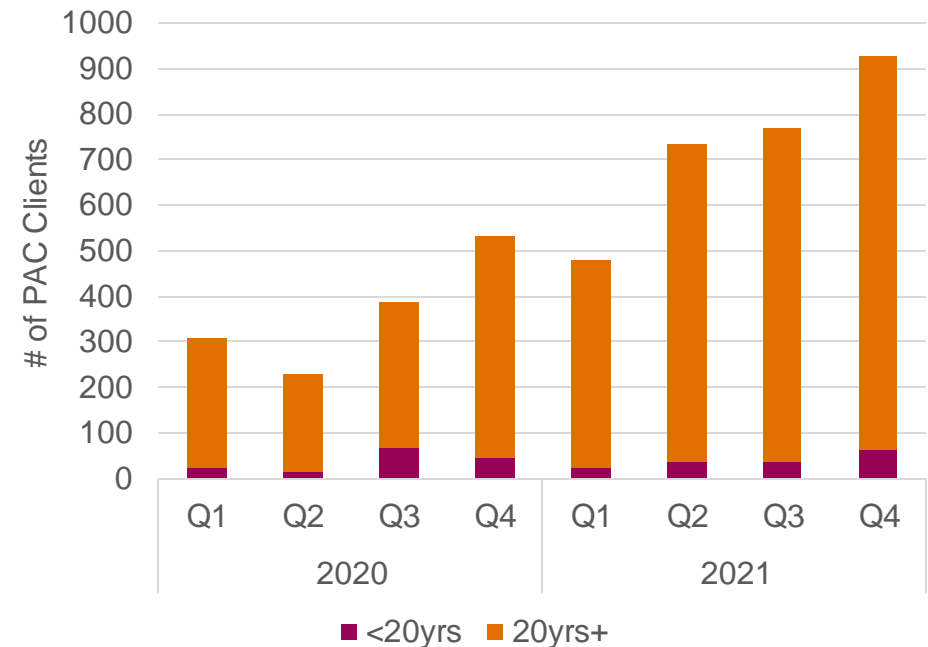
Results / Key Findings

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With support from EngenderHealth, ZAFAYCO and ZANA:

- Organized open **PAC and CAC dialogues** at national and community levels for the first time in Zanzibar, **reaching 180 influential participants**
- Uploaded relevant PAC and CAC audio-visual messages onto their **social media** platforms, **reaching approximately 15,000 people** over three months in 2021
- Successfully advocated** with district health management teams during budget planning processes **to include PAC and CAC activities in comprehensive council health plans**

Uptake of PAC Services Over Time, by Age



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Policy or Program Implications / Lessons

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- ExpandPAC's **successful advocacy efforts** are the result of EngenderHealth's **partnerships** with the Government of Zanzibar and local organizations and activities focused on enhancing **advocacy and accountability** capacities as well as **strengthening health systems**.
- **Local organizations and advocates are instrumental to sustaining advocacy outcomes** in Zanzibar. Meaningfully engaging with and strengthening local organizations can help ensure interventions are **adaptable, efficient, resilient, and responsive** to local systems—which in turn can enhance the sustainability of such efforts.



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Learn More!

Contact me:

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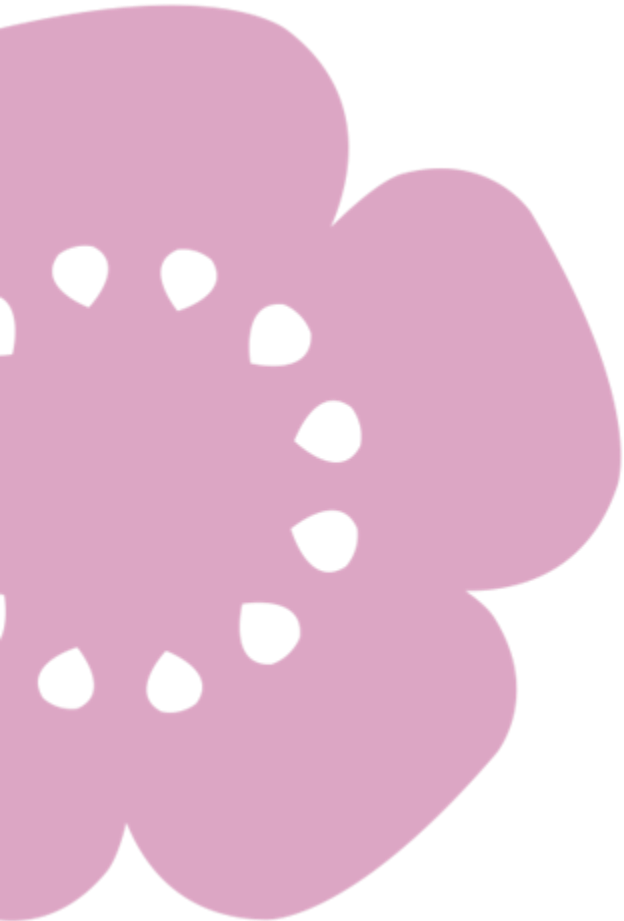
Come find us at **Booth #63**

Visit our microsite to see this presentation
and the complete abstract:

www.engenderhealth.org/icfp2022



Thank you!



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