

Jhpiego in Zimbabwe

Quick Facts

Estimated total population:¹
15.6 million

Maternal mortality ratio:²
651/100,000 live births

Infant mortality rate:²
50/1,000 live births

Under-five mortality rate:²
69/1,000 live births

Total fertility rate:²
4.0

Contraceptive prevalence:²
66% (modern methods)
67% (all methods)

HIV prevalence:²
13.8%

Births with skilled provider:²
78%

Sources:

¹ World Bank 2015;

² Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey 2015.

Background

Over the past five years, Zimbabwe has seen improvements in maternal health, with the maternal mortality ratio falling (according to Demographic and Health Surveys) from 960 in 2011 to 651 in 2015. This number is still far from the Millennium Development Goal target of 174. During this same time, the percentage of births with a skilled provider increased from 65% to 78%, and the contraceptive prevalence rate increased from 57% to 66%.

Jhpiego has been active in Zimbabwe for the past seven years following a 10-year hiatus. With funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Jhpiego began working in Zimbabwe in the 1980s, initially assisting the faculty of the University of Zimbabwe's department of obstetrics and gynecology to develop and implement a reproductive health training program. During the 1990s, Jhpiego collaborated with: the University of Zimbabwe to implement a research study on cervical cancer prevention; the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council (ZNFPC) to develop a self-paced, on-the-job training program for IUD insertion and removal; the Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) and ZNFPC to update/disseminate national family planning service delivery guidelines and update pre-service nursing/midwifery curricula; and the Mpilo School of Midwifery in Bulawayo to pilot-test the ModCAL[®] (Modified Computer-Assisted Learning) approach for training midwives. In 2015 and 2016, Jhpiego was supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to work with ZNFPC to pilot implementation of postpartum IUD services at six sites, resulting in more than 120 women receiving postpartum IUD services. ZNFPC is now working with the MOHCC on a wider scale to provide these services.

Jhpiego began working again in Zimbabwe in 2010 under the USAID-funded Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP), with John Snow, Inc. as the lead implementing partner and Save the Children as a partner. MCHIP's work in Zimbabwe contributes to improved maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) outcomes by helping to rebuild the capacity of the public health system to deliver high-impact interventions. In addition, Jhpiego is a partner on the Abt Associates-led, USAID-funded Zimbabwe Assistance Program in Malaria (ZAPIM). Both of these current awards are described in more detail below.



Program Highlights

Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program

MCHIP has been working in Zimbabwe at the national level and in Manicaland Province, implementing activities in district hospitals, rural health centers and communities. In the initial stages of the program, two “learning site” districts (Mutare and Chimanimani) were selected in Manicaland Province. In these two districts, MCHIP focused on improving the coverage and quality of care and other public health interventions with the Provincial Health Office and District Health Executives. It also supported the use of Jhpiego’s quality improvement approach, Standards-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R®)¹ at 17 health facilities, with a technical focus on antenatal care, labor and delivery, basic emergency obstetric and newborn care, essential newborn care (including infection prevention), health promotion, maternal and newborn health (MNH) human resources management, MNH infrastructure, MNH commodities, MNH laboratories and management of MNH services.

Building on MCHIP’s achievements in its initial stages, in 2014 Jhpiego was awarded the MCHIP Zimbabwe Associate Award, which ends in December 2017. The goal is to increase access to high-quality MNCH services and strengthen health services in Zimbabwe by continuing to support the MOHCC and contributing to the scale-up and rollout of evidence-based, high-impact interventions from the two learning sites in Mutare and Chimanimani to all seven districts in Manicaland Province. The objectives of the MCHIP Associate Award are to:

- Strengthen the capacity of the MOHCC at national level to formulate evidence-based national health policies, strategies and programs to enhance scale-up of high-impact MNCH interventions;
- Strengthen the capacity of the MOHCC at provincial and district levels to improve the quality of integrated MNCH services at health facilities and in the community to support national-level scale-up plans; and
- Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to implement MNCH activities and manage U.S. Government funding.

Zimbabwe Assistance Program in Malaria (ZAPIM)

Jhpiego is strengthening the capacity of the MOHCC/National Malaria Control Program to implement high-quality case management of malaria and malaria in pregnancy. This initiative includes systems strengthening and leadership in/design of capacity development at all points of care from community to facility to national level, considering health staff and volunteers within a catchment area an integrated service delivery unit, and coordinating support of any other partners contributing to this objective.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Focus on increasing knowledge, attitudes and acceptance of the use of long-lasting, insecticide-treated bed nets.

¹ SBM-R is a structured, four-step, continuous performance and quality improvement process wherein: 1) performance standards are set, 2) gaps in performance are measured, 3) plans are implemented to cover the gaps, and 4) participating institutions are rewarded for attaining preset standards of quality in health care services.

- Develop messages around malaria in pregnancy and malaria case management, targeting providers and community cadres.
- Conduct operational research and malaria surveillance, including assisting in assessment of malaria data, conducting research related to malaria and supporting efficacy studies.

Key Accomplishments

- MCHIP successfully introduced the SBM-R approach and worked with national, provincial and district stakeholders to conduct SBM-R baseline assessments and develop site-specific action plans in 36 high-volume district hospitals and rural health centers in seven districts of Manicaland. This intervention has led to improvements in adherence to performance and quality of care standards for all facilities covered.
- According to data from these 36 sites, for the period of January 2014 through December 2016, 66,162 pregnant women received at least four antenatal care visits. During this same period, a total of 79,765 deliveries occurred with a skilled birth attendant, and the percentage of these women who received a potentially lifesaving uterotonic during the third stage of labor immediately after birth was 96%.
- MCHIP supported provincial and districts teams to adopt the competency-based training approach by: 1) training 152 trainers on MNCH (including post-training follow-up and supportive supervision); 2) conducting post-training follow-up visits; and 3) improving capacity of tutors and training institutions for competency-based training in MNH. In addition, more than 6,500 health care workers have been trained in technical areas such as basic emergency obstetric and newborn care, rotavirus vaccine introduction, malaria case management, infant and young child feeding, Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.
- MCHIP supported the MOHCC at the national level to develop the Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) training package. Also, MCHIP supported the training of KMC trainers, as well as provincial- and district-level newborn health initiatives targeting low-birthweight babies. KMC registers developed and distributed with MCHIP support are now being used nationally. There are currently 21 functional MCHIP-supported KMC units.



Mother with healthy baby returning for checkup at hospital in Chimanimani district, Zimbabwe.

Partners and Donors

In addition to working hand in hand with the MOHCC, MCHIP/Zimbabwe is collaborating with other USAID-funded partners in Zimbabwe, including Abt Associates, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, PSI, the International Rescue Committee, USAID | DELIVER, Supply Chain Management System and Children First. Jhpiego also collaborates with multilateral and bilateral partners such as the World Health Organization, UNFPA, United Nations Children's Fund, UK Department for International Development, European Union, World Bank and others.

References

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