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An unmet need for Family Planning

The population of Samlaut is young with a high proportion in or about to enter their reproductive years. The Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2005 found that 79% of married women wanted to either delay the birth of a new child or have no more children at all, but only 27% were using modern fertility regulation methods. An unmet need was identified following consultation with villagers in Samlaut yet we found limited Family Planning service provision.

Improving Family Planning services in Samlaut Millennium Village, Cambodia

Dr Chris Smith, GP and Delegate for Wessex Service Improvement and Leadership Program

RAID methodology to improve Family Planning services

RAID methodology is a Quality Improvement (QI) tool. Our goal is to improve Family Planning provision in Samlaut

Review
• We consulted with all of the relevant stakeholders including other Non-Governmental Organisations and the Cambodian Ministry of Health (MOH)
• We familiarised ourselves with the National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health in Cambodia 2006-2010
• We learnt about existing Family Planning provision from private clinics and pharmacies in Samlaut
• We learnt about villagers preferences for Family Planning

Agree
With input from QI Specialists from the UK we agreed the following:
• To start a basic Family Planning service (offering condoms, pill and depot) from our rural health post
• To explore offering a wider range of contraceptive options in Samlaut, such as, the hormonal implant and IUD
• To explore community based distribution options

Implementation
• A Family Planning awareness meeting at our Health Post which was attended by 48 villagers.
• We have provided training in basic contraception to the health post staff and the service has been running since May 2009

Demonstrate
• Monthly contraceptive consumption and number of clients (using Cambodian MOH reporting system)
• Couple year of protection
• In depth evaluation carried out September 2010, results awaited

Benefits to the UK & Cambodia

This partnership aims to be mutually beneficial both to Cambodia and the NHS.

NHS
It is unusual for trainees, or those early in career to gain experience of comprehensive service improvement.

Although the UK has a fairly established Family Planning Services in Cambodia this partnership holds the unenviable position of having the highest teenage birth rate in Western Europe. There is always scope for improvement in services. The UK could learn from innovative and imaginative ideas and programmes from other countries.

Cambodia
In every country with high fertility rates there are many barriers to fertility regulation methods and Cambodia is no exception:
• non-availability
• myths
• male blocks
Sharing UK knowledge and experience and QI methods with Cambodian Healthcare staff and working together to improve services has the potential to benefit the Cambodian healthcare system.

An unmet need for Family Planning

Comparison of UK and Cambodian Health Indicators

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