

Mobile Training for Health Workers who Save Lives

A program from mPowering Frontline Health Workers and its partners is using mobile health (mHealth) to train health workers, nurses and midwives through training videos accessed on Android tablets in Ondo State, Nigeria.

In Nigeria, the maternal mortality ratio is 1 in every 29 live births, and 33% of infants don't survive their first month after birth. While health workers are working hard to improve these tragic statistics, they don't always have access to the training they need to do their best work.

In May 2016 mPowering—together with Medical Aid Films, Digital Campus, InStrat Global Health Solutions, and Ondo State Primary Health Care Development Board—launched a health worker training program designed for access of these videos on mobile devices. This program was funded by USAID.

Through this collaboration, eleven maternal and child health films were created in English, Yoruba, and Hausa and loaded onto Android tablets for 200 nurses, midwives, and community health workers to use across eighteen health centers in Ondo State, Nigeria. Some of the topics covered by these videos include antenatal care, placenta removal, maternity care, newborn care, and other detailed skills to decrease high risk factors during and after pregnancy. These videos were also



1 Karen Kasm auski/MCSP Nigeria

shared on mPowering's ORB platform, which hosts mobile training content for re-use and adaptation. While many training programs require health workers to leave their work and travel long distances, this program allowed them to train during their work days, for a short period of time each day. At some facilities, the health workers take turns watching videos and taking quizzes on the tablets during their down time, and then gather to discuss lessons and ask questions as a group. At other facilities, the health workers find a time when they are all available to watch the video lessons and discuss questions together.



2 Karen Kasmasuki/MCSP Nigeria

Health workers use the videos as a teaching tool to help women understand what to expect during their pregnancies, and which warning signs to look out for. After participating in the training program, midwives and CHWs developed increased understanding of optimal antenatal care timelines, and had more knowledge about how to recognize and respond to warning

signs during pregnancy. This training provides a cost-effective way to provide training to large numbers of health workers. ORB is able to fill the training gap while tracking which health workers have successfully fulfilled training requirements.

Ultimately, better quality of care, useful trainee analytics, stronger performance-based evidence, and community engagement are initial results from this program. A health worker who is better trained and confident in their skills and knowledge will support the prevention of complications during pregnancy and result in happier, healthier mothers and babies.

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