

Introduction

- To reduce maternal and perinatal deaths, Tanzania targets to expand the number of health centres (HCs) providing comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care (CEmONC) from 12% in 2015 to 50% by 2020.
- In 2015 the Accessing Safe Deliveries in Tanzania project was designed to study the best approach to improve access to CEmONC services in underserved Tanzania.

Methods

- Study period: 2016 – 2019
- Design: controlled interventional study design with 5 intervention and 2 control health centres

Interventions

- Training**
To introduce and reinforce CEmONC services 22 associate clinicians and nurse-midwives were trained in teams for three months in CEmONC and anaesthesia.
- Post-training interventions**
Supportive supervision and mentorship were done every quarter and included audit of Caesarean sections (CS), maternal deaths and obstetric referrals.
- Stakeholders engagement**
Six monthly regular meetings with council and regional health managers and decision makers to update them and discuss solution for the challenges encountered during project implementation.

Results

Fig 1. Mean monthly deliveries in ASDIT supported HCs

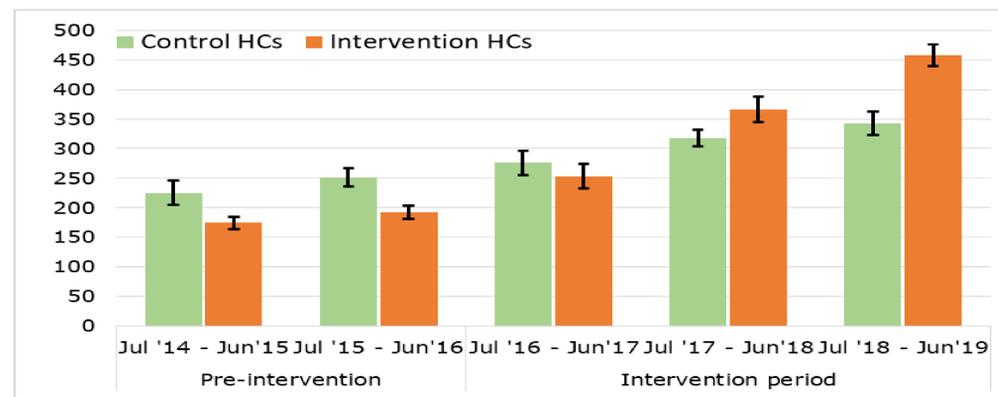


Fig 2. Caesarean sections as a proportion of all births in the intervention and control catchment populations

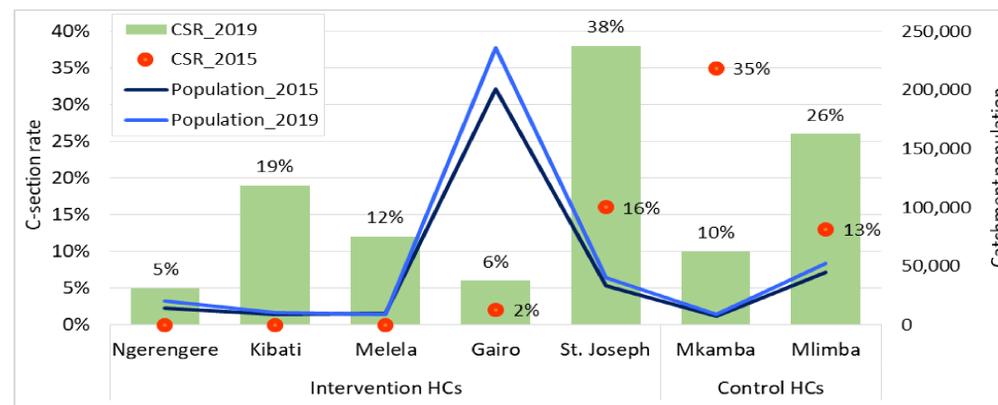
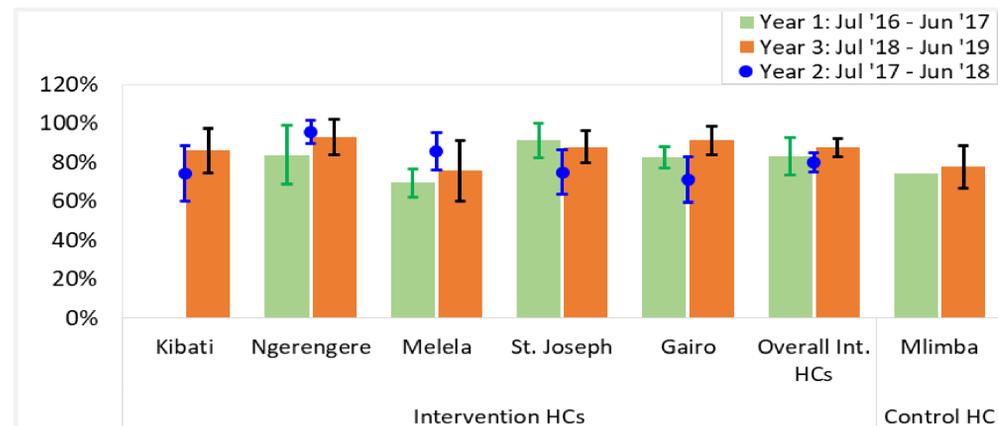


Fig 3. Proportions of C-sections performed with justifiable indications in the intervention and control health centres



Safety of C-sections at the health centres

- 2,179 CS were performed during the intervention period in the intervention facilities
- 5 women died from immediate complications of obstetric surgery and anaesthesia.
- The risk of a woman dying from complications of CS in these health centres was 2.3 per 1,000 caesarean deliveries (95% CI 0.3 - 4.3).
- The risk of a woman dying from complications of anaesthesia in the intervention HCs was 1 per 1,000 caesarean deliveries (95% CI 0.0 – 2.2).

Conclusions And Recommendations

- The three month training program for associate clinicians and nurse-midwives in CEmONC and anaesthesia is a safe, effective and an immediate solution that is currently saving lives of mothers and babies in rural Tanzania.
- This education program should be used to meet the demand for CEmONC and anaesthesia in underserved rural Africa until longer term training programs are fully established and able to meet the needs.

Funding

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