



**Innovative effective approaches for  
increasing family planning access in  
difficult to access settings**  
presented by Clarence Massaquoi, PMU-Liberia



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# Background

Recognizing and enhancing capacity of local NGOs is needed to ensure sustainability and quality of FP services in conflict affected (and transitional) settings



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# Assumption

Local NGOs can:

- prevent life saving RH/FP service gaps (post conflict)
- increase RH/FP coverage in a cost-effective way
- scale up services quickly and effectively
- ensure continuous service provision during crisis and in remote areas



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# Astarte project model

- Seed grants for local NGOs in conflict affected areas
- Technical training
- Organizational Strengthening
- Linkages (regional, international RH community)



# Liberia experience



# PMU-Liberia

- a relief and development arm of the Free Pentecostal Church in Liberia
- providing humanitarian services to Liberians since 1991
- currently managing 15 Ministry of Health clinics and the 3 health centres  
3 counties



# PMU-Liberia experience with Astarte model

- \$10,000 seed grant for community based RH/FP
- Technical and organizational strengthening
- Materials
- Linkages and leadership opportunities in-country, regionally and internationally



# PMU-Liberia Project: 2007

- Trained traditional midwives (shift to FP emphasis) in Lofa County
- Well positioned to implement services
- Understand language, culture, community structures



# Inputs

- Proposal writing workshop
- \$10,000 grant
- M&E training
- Organizational development and leadership training
- Reproductive health training and materials
- Networking (nationally, regionally, internationally)



# PMU-Liberia 2009

- Advocacy for family within the organization; nationally
- Leveraging funds for family planning within PHC services
- Able to develop technically sound implementation strategies using materials, tools, training – financial, material, technical inputs
- Initiated national RH network “REHNL”



## Lessons Learned: Seed grant and technical support

- Enabled us to build organizational track record & recognition
- Provided tools to be an effective FP advocate



## Lessons Learned: Seed grant and technical support provided

- ‘REHNL’ giving stronger voice for FP and for local NGO leadership in FP service delivery
- opportunity to leverage additional RH/FP funds (\$10,000- to 2 million)
- Resulting in increased access to FP and linkages to a broader range of RH services



# Conclusion

With appropriate support, local NGOs are best positioned to provide effective, culturally acceptable, relevant RH and FP services *especially* in conflict and transitional settings



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# Thank you



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