

considerations: Independent ethics committees within hospitals or clinics Local leader or village chief permission or support 5. Individual considerations: Factors that limit true informed consent Appropriate consenting process Spousal permission In DRC, we obtained approval from the DRC National Order of Physicians Ethics Committee and at individual clinics. In the Philippines, the University of Santo Tomas partnered and undertook primary IRB responsibility with additional approvals at each hospitals. In Mexico, a hospital-based partnership was formed with Shriners Hospital Tijuana through a co-investigator. In Honduras, Morocco and Vietnam, approvals came from directors of individual hospitals and clinics.

Going Forward: A checklist tool is being developed to facilitate the international ethical approval process for similar studies conducting international human subjects research. The tool will assist in identifying stakeholders and understanding which approvals are needed

Funding: Sorenson Legacy Foundation.

Abstract #: 01GMHE007

Attracting and retaining nurses to a rural hard to reach post in lesotho: A combination of financial incentives, preservice competency based curriculum and student rural clinical placements

H. Francis Mwale; USAID Southern Africa, Maseru, LS

Program/Project Purpose: Lesotho is one of the 57 countries that are experiencing health workforce crisis and distribution challenges. This program represents a combination of three US Government funded projects whose aim was to prepare nurses that would be attracted and retained in the rural mountainous areas of Lesotho. The three projects focussed on financial and no-financial incentives, development of a competence based curriculum for midwives willing to work in rural areas and student nurse rural clinical placements program. These programs were implemented by 3 US Government implementing partners; ECSA, Jhpiego and Columbia University. These programs are/ were concurrently implemented from 2010 to 2014/15/16.

Structure/Method/Design: To prepare a nursing cadre willing to be deployed and retained in rural hard to reach mountainous areas of Lesotho; To develop a competency based curriculum that prepares a nurse midwife to work in rural areas of Lesotho; and To attach student nurses to rural clinical sites in order to expose them to the rural work environment and therefore prepare them for rural posts. The nurse participants were nursing students in the six nursing schools and in-service nursing staff working for the Ministry of Health. The capacity building activities were carried out in both Ministry of Health and Churches Health Association of Lesotho training institutions and health facilities.

Outcomes & Evaluation: The results were collected through routine program monitoring information and a specific evaluation conducted on the students that were placed in rural clinical sites to assess their willingness to work in rural hard to reach health facilities once they graduate. The research results revealed that of the 49 students placed in rural clinics 35 (71%) stated willingness to work in rural sites after graduation. The program also monitored the recruitment of staff to the 46 rural hard to reach health facilities. The program was able to attract and fill 325 nurse positions out of the earmarked 375 positions (87%).

Going Forward: The program clearly shows that a combination approach to preparing nurses for rural deployment, beginning with the content of the curriculum, student placement in rural areas and a combination of financial and non-financial incentives does improve availability

Funding: The partners that supported the activities of this program include USAID using PEPFAR funds and Irish AID supporting the financial and non financial incentives at the 46 health facilities.

Abstract #: 01GMHE008

Time series analysis of sexual assault case characteristics and the 2007–2008 period of post-election violence in Kenya

K. Naimer; Physicians for Human Rights, Boston, MA/US

Background: Kenya witnessed hundreds of cases of sexualized violence in the post-election period (December 2007 to February 2008), yet few comprehensive medical studies measure the prevalence of sexualized violence cases. The aim of this study was to establish the patterns of mass rape during the post-election violence.

Methods: Medical records of 1,615 patients diagnosed with sexual assault between 2007 and 2011 at healthcare facilities in Eldoret (n = 569), Naivasha (n = 534), and Nakuru (n = 512) were retrospectively reviewed to examine characteristics of sexual assault cases over time. Data were cleaned to eliminate cases from the analytic dataset that failed logic and consistency checks. Time series and linear regression were used to examine temporal variation in case characteristics relative to the period of post-election violence in Kenya. We collapsed the dataset by month of assault and calculated the percentage of cases that exhibited a case characteristic of interest, then examined the first 10 autocorrelations for each outcome series, and calculated the Durbin-Watson statistics. Key informant interviews with healthcare workers at the sites were employed to triangulate findings, using inductive content analysis. This research was approved by the Institutional Research and Ethics Committee of Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, the Boston University Medical Center Institutional Review Board (IRB), and the Research Triangle Institute International IRB.

Findings: Prais-Winsten estimates indicate that cases in the PEV period showed a greater percentage-point increase in a one-month lag between date of assault and date of presentation to healthcare facility (0.28 in PEV cases, 0.10 in non-PEV cases, $p = .003$), the perpetrator being unknown to the victim (0.45 in PEV cases, 0.23 in non-PEV cases, $p = .001$), more than one perpetrator being involved in the sexual assault (0.35 in PEV cases, 0.13 in non-PEV cases, $p = .001$), and abdominal injuries (0.07 in PEV cases, 0.03 in non-PEV cases, $p = .025$). Sensitivity analyses confirmed that these characteristics were specific to the post-election violence time period.

Interpretation: These results illustrate systematic alterations in sexual assault case characteristics during the PEV period in Kenya that are consistent with the patterns of mass rape in conflict settings elsewhere. This finding bolsters claims being advanced in legal processes that crimes against humanity of mass rape took place during post-election violence. Limitations of the study include the inability to capture cases that were not reported to medical facilities or sexual homicides, as well as variation over time and by location of medical records. A strength was that time series analysis in conjunction with medical record review allowed us to gain efficiencies that would be lost in a larger, cross-sectional population base survey relying on survivor recall.

Funding: This research was funded by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR).

Abstract #: 01GMHE009

Informal fees for maternal health: A critical interpretive synthesis of evidence and policy

M. Schaaf; Columbia University, New York, NY/US