

Using multidisciplinary, evidence-based strategies to improve maternal and child health in Somalia.

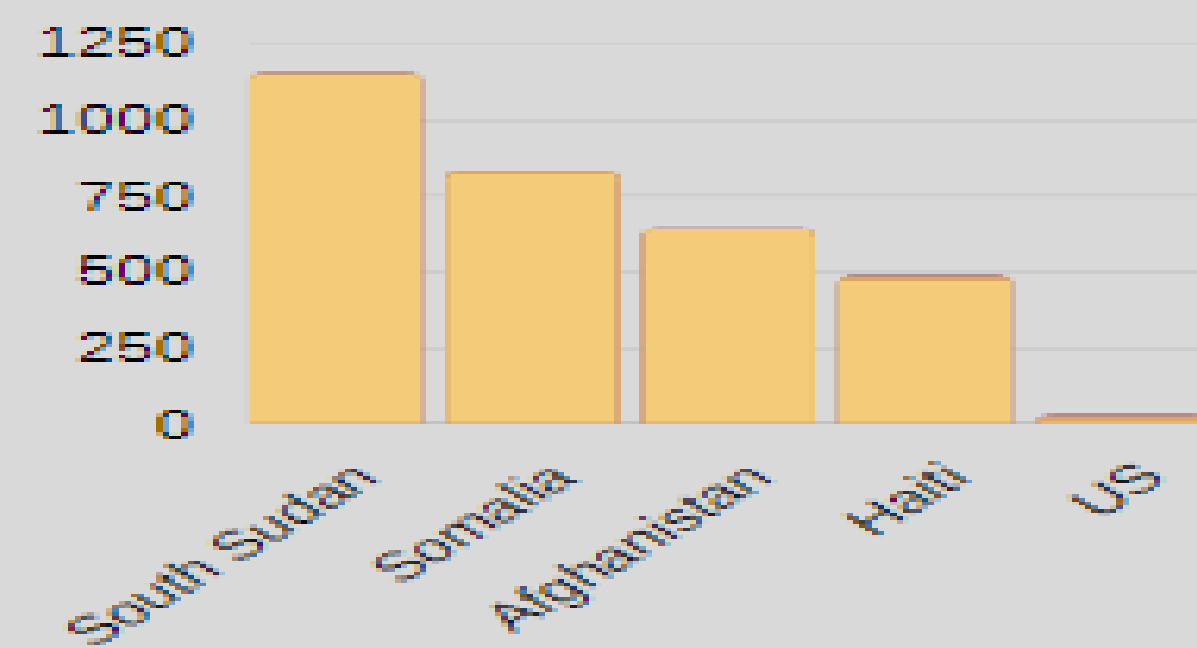
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Background

Considering that Somalia has one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates, the Addis Clinic created the Somali Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program to increase and improve healthcare access and educate community health workers (CHWs) on maternal health-related issues.

Figure 1: Countries Maternal Mortality Rate in 2017 (per 100,000 live births)



Source: WHO - World Health Statistics 2022

Methods

Three multidisciplinary, evidence-based strategies were used to improve access and quality of MCH health services and create community-based programs.

1. Development of the Telemedicine Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire (Vanderbilt's Essential Skills course) and performance of 16 cognitive interviews
2. Literature review to find strategies to increase the number of antenatal care visits among internally displaced population and improve postpartum checkups.
3. Creation of HIV education materials for CHWs in basic and practical HIV concepts and psychosocial support interventions

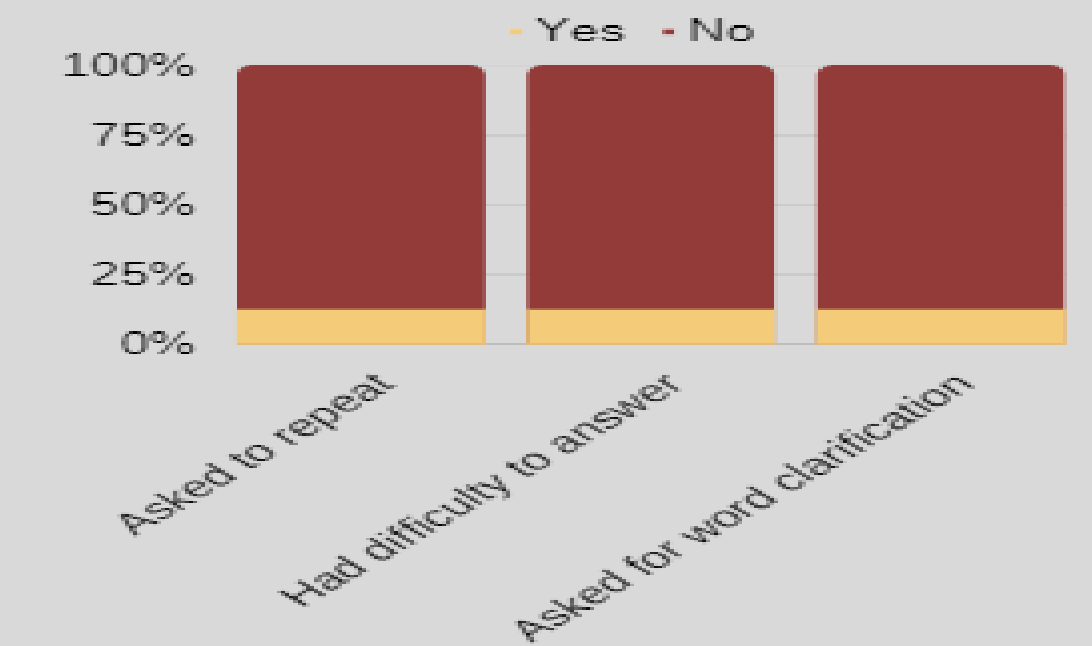
Figure 2: Addis Clinic Post Telehealth Consultation Survey structure



Results

1. Cognitive interview responses were generally satisfactory (85% rate response) and provided information to adjust the final questionnaire. Adjustments were made to provide additional explanations to some terms, rephrase questions, and simplify the informed consent for young women.

Figure 3: Cognitive interview results. Performance of the telemedicine users



2. Literature review best strategies to improve health services: consider the local context, use the technology to facilitate intervention delivery, and engage family and patients to reduce costs and empowers the community.
3. Creation of the post-partum checkup checklist for the health providers and CHWs use

Conclusions

- Addressing MCH issues in low-income countries is challenging because social determinants contribute to poor quality and delays in healthcare access.
- Using multidisciplinary programs allows for creating comprehensive interventions.
- Close work with CHWs in the area is essential to implement a successful program.

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