

CAP SOUTH AFRICA INTEGRATION OF MATERNAL NUTRITION AND INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING IN THE CONTEXT OF PMTCT

Project Overview: Funded by USAID/South Africa, the CAP South Africa program (2006-2012, \$9.55 million) expands the integration of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, maternal nutrition, and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) services to all nine provinces in South Africa.

From **October 2006** to **September 2008**, CAP South Africa:

- Mobilized communities in nine provinces to address social norms and behavior change related to health and nutrition practices;
- Raised public awareness of the importance of improved nutrition for women by incorporating messages, counseling and services for IYCF in the context of PMTCT;
- Integrated maternal nutrition and IYCF in the context of PMTCT into NGO health facility and community health services; and
- Built NGO and government capacity to sustain the implementation of interventions and the reporting of results.

South Africa Context: South Africa has one of the highest HIV-prevalence rates in the world. A national survey developed by the Actuarial Society of South Africa and conducted by the Ministry of Health in 2006 estimates that 28.3 percent of pregnant women between 15 and 49 years old—the age group most affected by HIV in South Africa—were HIV-positive.

The **major components of the program** include:

- **Integration of maternal nutrition guidelines** into clinical and community support services in nine provinces;

- **Development of implementation plans** for maternal nutrition and IYCF guidelines in the context of PMTCT in collaboration with the implementers from the Department of Health (DoH) Directorates of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS;
- **Training and capacity building** of health workers and community service providers on maternal nutrition and IYCF in the PMTCT context and Behavior Change Communication approaches;
- Implementing and providing quality assurance based on the **Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI)** in the context of PMTCT to improve IYCF and care and support of mother-infant pairs and families;
- **Providing technical assistance to the national DoH and selected NGOs** to monitor and evaluate integrated maternal nutrition and IYCF services in the context of HIV/AIDS; and
- **Writing resource documents**, such as the “Mother, Child and Family Health and Nutrition Booklet” and “Maternal Guidelines on Nutrition for Pregnant and Lactating Women in the context of PMTCT of HIV.”

Number of people trained: 2,037

Number of pregnant women provided with ARV prophylaxis in a PMTCT setting: 4,432

Number of women receiving messages about maternal nutrition infant and young child feeding in the context of PMTCT: 44,446

Number of service outlets provided with Technical Assistance: 232

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