



OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S HEALTH

Leverage ACOG's Unique Capabilities to Improve Women's Health Everywhere

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists is the specialty's premier professional membership organization dedicated to the improvement of women's health throughout their lives. ACOG is committed to leveraging its expertise and the commitment of US ob-gyns to support women's health programs around the world through the Office of Global Women's Health (OGWH). OGWH seeks to increase women's access to quality health care by building provider skills, supporting implementation of high impact interventions, and scaling proven solutions to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity. Our vision is a world in which all women have access to quality health care throughout their lives. We work to:

- Catalyze Multidisciplinary Team-Based Care and Data-Driven Quality Improvement in Facilities.
- Expand Pre- and In-Service Training in Surgical Skills and Operative Obstetrics to Address the Lack of Access to Safe Surgery and Strengthen Surgical Infrastructure.
- Strengthen Capacities of Professional Ob-Gyn Associations and Facilitate Collaboration with Ministries of Health, Women's Health Care Providers, Universities and Local Partners.
- Enhance Medical Education and Residency Training.

In each country, ACOG engages with public and private sector stakeholders to catalyze local development and sustainability and ensure that standards and guidelines are context specific and culturally appropriate. Stakeholders include chairs of the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, professional ob-gyn associations, Ministries of Health and Education, ACOG Fellows, US university programs on-site, other NGO partners working in country. OGWH has a portfolio of programs in **13** countries.

ACOG PROGRAMS AND 2017 SUCCESSES

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM-BASED CARE AND DATA-DRIVEN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (AIM) – Malawi

ACOG implemented a demonstration project in Malawi, based on the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health program that has successfully reduced severe maternal morbidity and improved team-based care and referral networks for obstetric emergencies in the US. In partnership with the Malawi Ministry of Health and Baylor College of Medicine, ACOG supported teams at Kamuzu Central Hospital (KCH), Area 25 Health Center, and Bwaila Maternity Hospital to tailor postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) bundles to improve recognition and management of obstetric complications. ACOG worked closely with district health officials, hospital directors and ob-gyn department chairs to catalyze local ownership of the program.



Over 390 staff were trained in team communication and PPH management at KCH and Area 25 and 14 skills labs were conducted on emergency interventions, quantification of blood loss, leadership, team communication skills, and implementation of PPH bundles.

For the first time, 56 maternal hemorrhage simulations were conducted at all three facilities. Communication training and technology were utilized to facilitate team communication within facilities and to strengthen referral networks during patient transfer. Teams co-developed tailored PPH materials on recognition, readiness, response and reporting developed by ACOG's Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care. ACOG and BCM are providing long-term technical assistance to support continual improvements in clinical performance and safety culture.

Results: The program has increased utilization of safety protocols, improved teamwork and staff preparedness, enhanced a culture of safety, and increased recognition and management of PPH. Incidence of maternal hemorrhage was reduced and utilization of life saving interventions for patients experiencing uterine atony increased from 3.7 percent to 34.4 percent.

Read more about [Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health \(AIM\) – Malawi](#)

SURGICAL SKILLS AND OPERATIVE OBSTETRICS

Surgical Skills and Operative Obstetrics Training – Uganda

ACOG's model of surgical skills training is designed to integrate training and supervision into pre-service curricula. ACOG Fellows train Master Trainers in surgical and operative obstetrics; they then lead implementation of training programs within their departments and train instructors in techniques for training interns and residents and observe clinical skills to ensure quality of practice. Residents and interns are trained in rotation and supervised on basic surgical techniques, operative vaginal skills, repair of cervical lacerations, and Cesarean deliveries.



In-person and virtual mentorship of providers by experienced surgeons will be integrated into the program. Trainees include residents, most of whom will become District Health Officers, as well as non-physician clinicians who are part of the team managing obstetrics patients.

In 2018, ACOG will expand upon its successful surgical obstetrics training program at Mulago Hospital and Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Kampala through:

- **Stakeholder engagement** to disseminate findings and develop a plan for sustainable integration of the training into medical education and into national surgical plans.
- **Curriculum refinement** to standardize pre-service education and training of ob-gyns and other providers in surgical skills and operative obstetrics.
- **Innovative approaches** to training and mentorship, including integration of midwives and other health care providers into team-based training.

A third university will be added in 2018.

Results: In Uganda, ACOG will train close to **200 Master Trainers** and over **490 Providers** in advanced surgical skills by the end of 2018 at three universities and will integrate a locally-revised curriculum into pre-service education for physicians.

Read more about [Surgical Skills and Operative Obstetrics Training – Uganda](#)

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Professional Association Strengthening (PAS)

ACOG works closely with professional association colleagues to strengthen their capacity to advocate for investments in health care, develop programs, coordinate with external partners, provide support to local ob-gyns and other health care professionals, and work closely with Ministries of Health.

ACOG is a founding member of the **Survive and Thrive Global Development Alliance (S&T)**. Through S&T, ACOG co-developed a professional association strengthening manual with the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

ACOG supported the **Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI)** to integrate the 100k Babies program in India. FOGSI is utilizing the PAS manual, needs assessment and resource mobilization workshop materials in its organizational development and is working with ACOG and other professional association partners to expand the 100K Babies program in India.

ACOG worked with the **Rwandan Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** and peer associations to field test the PAS modules; valuable feedback was integrated into revisions. The **Zambian Association of Gynecologists and Obstetricians** has used the PAS manual and assessment results to develop their strategic plan.

Results: In addition to FOGSI, RSOG and ZAGO, ACOG has conducted assessments, training and Professional Association Strengthening for the ob-gyn associations of **Bangladesh, Burma, Ethiopia, Malawi and Uganda**.

Read more about [Professional Association Strengthening](#)

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESIDENCY TRAINING

ACOG-ESOG Collaboration



ACOG is supporting the **Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG)** to develop the capacities of ob-gyns in Ethiopia to improve quality of care and increase women's access to reproductive health care throughout the country. ACOG supports ESOG's work to:

- Develop and implement national guidelines for ob-gyn residency education.
- Provide up-to-date Continuing Medical Education (CME) for practicing ob-gyns.
- Enhance the capacity of residents and faculty to develop, analyze, and publish clinical research.
- Establish a residency certification program and build capacities of residency program directors.
- Support development of ethical guidelines for ob-gyn practice.
- Strengthen the association through leadership training, advocacy for women's health and rights and professional association management.

Results: In 2017, ACOG's residency education experts provided technical guidance and educational materials, which informed ESOG's development of the **National Harmonized Obstetrics and Gynecology Specialty Training Curriculum**. The Ethiopian Ministries of Health and Education are using the ESOG program as a model for other specialties. ACOG Fellows have provided CME on over 12 ob-gyn topics and provided advanced training on scientific writing, research and management of the Ethiopian Journal of Reproductive Health.

Read more about the [ACOG-ESOG Collaboration](#)

Continuing Medical Education in India

ACOG is partnering with GE Healthcare to co-develop, tailor and implement educational programs for physicians in India. ACOG will tailor existing emodules and ACOG Fellows will conduct in-person trainings on a range of obstetric and gynecologic topics for physicians.

Strengthening Medical Care in Central America

Since 2003, ACOG has strengthened ob-gyn societies and enhanced professional education and training standards through the Central American Residency Program (CAFA). ACOG supports development of residency accreditation and administration of in-service exams, establishment of minimal educational standards, facilitation of quality assurance processes and mentoring of hospital leaders. Data on residency program performance is measured through an annual in-service examination; results inform improvements in education.

Results: Through CAFA, ACOG engages with 75 percent of ob-gyn residency programs in Central America.

Read more about [Strengthening Medical Care in Central America](#)

ZIKA

In 2017, ACOG partnered with the [USAID ASSIST \(Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems\) Project](#) to provide technical support services to strengthen the quality of Zika-related health service delivery in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras for pregnant women, newborns, and women of reproductive age.

Results: ACOG provided in-person and web-based training on Zika and long-acting reversible contraception that was attended by over 255 health professionals throughout Central America. Twenty-five ACOG Fellows from the participating countries provided virtual tutoring for extended e-learning to approximately 840 public health employees, and other students.

Read more about the [Zika Project](#)

ACOG is grateful to our partners, including:

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Nurse Midwives
- Baylor College of Medicine
- Center for International Reproductive Health Training
- Drexel University School of Medicine
- GE Healthcare
- Jhpiego
- Johnson and Johnson
- Laerdal Global Health
- Maternal Child Survival Program
- Saving Mothers Giving Life
- Survive and Thrive Global Development Alliance
- University Research Co.

In addition, we are grateful for the expertise and financial support of ACOG Fellows.

For more information on the Office of Global Women's Health, please contact Carla Eckhardt, Senior Director of Global Women's Health at ceckhardt@acog.org or (202) 863-2579.

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