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Togolese Ministry of Health and Hope Through Health Pilot New Approach to End Preventable Deaths in Togo, West Africa

New Work in Togo Focused on Improving Maternal and Child Health

May 16th, 2016, Copenhagen, Denmark - Hope Through Health, a growing social enterprise which has worked to improve access to life-saving HIV/AIDS treatment in Togo, West Africa for more than a decade, launched a new Maternal and Child Health Program in partnership with the Togolese Ministry of Health in August, 2015.

The Maternal and Child Health Program implements an integrated clinic and community-based approach to health systems strengthening in four public sector clinics serving a population of 30,000. The program is designed to increase access to, timeliness of and quality of healthcare services for pregnant woman and children under five, hopefully leading to immediate and long-term decreases in rates of maternal and child morbidity and mortality. Hope Through Health is supporting Togo's Ministry of Health by training community health workers to deliver proactive screenings and services to women and children in their homes and by providing mentoring and supplies to strengthen the staff and facilities of existing public clinics. Hope Through Health believes that our model will dramatically reduce preventable deaths among the more than 6,000 women and children it aims to serve over three years.

The Maternal and Child Health program is already contributing to significant increases in health service utilization and effective treatment rates in intervention catchment areas. For example:

- In the first eight months, the Program achieved a 79% coverage rate of children under five, with 5,334 children out of an estimated area of 6,727 children treated by Community Health workers and in public clinics.
- In March 2016, 82.5% of cases of childhood illness were treated within the first 72 hours following symptom onset.
- Prenatal consultations have doubled over the same period last year.
- 66% of deliveries are facility-based, up from 28% in August.
- Community Health worker adherence to clinical protocols is currently measured at 96% through direct observation by a supervisor.

"Things aren't like they used to be," says Brigitte, a community member speaking about the Maternal and Child Health program. "People are thinking differently about the health of their children."

In preparation for the launch of the new Maternal and Child Health program, Hope Through Health's team in Togo conducted more than 160 community meetings. "Securing the buy-in and trust of all of our partners - and most importantly, the families we aim to serve - is critical to this program's success" said Hope Through Health co-founder Dr. Kevin Fiori.

Hope Through Health and the Togolese Ministry of Health are encouraged by these early impact figures. Currently less than 30% of the population uses public healthcare services in Togo. Both partners believe that this model represents an opportunity to ensure good health for more than 5 million Togolese who currently lack access to adequate healthcare services. Hope Through Health is also working alongside the Togolese Ministry of Health at the national level to explore opportunities to scale this approach nationally.

About Hope Through Health: Hope Through Health (HTH) is dedicated to transforming health and healthcare systems for the most vulnerable in Togo, West Africa. Combining frontline expertise and rigorous evaluation, HTH saves lives by treating patients and strengthening health systems. Founded by Peace Corps volunteers working in partnership with a local association of people living with HIV/AIDS, HTH was launched in 2004 to improve access to healthcare and promote innovation in health systems. By working in partnership with local organizations, patients, health workers, researchers and policymakers in Togo, HTH develops insights and solutions that are transferable and replicable. For more information, visit www.hthglobal.org and follow us on Twitter @HTHGlobal and Facebook at facebook.com/hthglobal.