Project Title: Faith Leaders Advocating for Maternal Empowerment (FLAME)
Researcher’s Name/Organization:
Getahun Asres (MD, MPH), Adino Tesfahun(MPH) / University of Gondar
Judd Walson (MD, MPH), Brandon Guthrie (PhD)/ University of Washington

Photo Title: Priest and HDA on training
People in photo: Priests and HDA

Photo Title: A priest speaks with pregnant women about delivering in a health facility
People in photo: Pregnant women and a priest
Research Approach:
• Cluster randomized trial
• Train priests and HDA, and engage them in health outreach.
• Follow the trainees, and have data from intervention and control HC about MCH services at baseline and during the trial

The data we have been collecting include:

– Facility assessment on 30 health centers
– Survey of 288 reproductive age women
– Qualitative assessment of the perceptions of pregnant women, their partners, priests and health professionals with 12 FGDs and 10 KII
– Health centers’ report on maternal and child health service
Key results of your research/project so far:

Facility assessment
- 54.5% - who had at least one ANC visit went on to all four visits.
- 63.9% - who had at least one ANC visit went on to deliver at HC.
- Average institutional delivery rate is 43.5%.

Qualitative assessment
- Disclosing pregnancy is an issue
- ANC is perceived as to be done only when a pregnant mother is ill
- Transportation, fear of operation, and external influence are some of the major barriers to institutional delivery

Survey
- 36.3% ever had ANC follow-up
- 72.1% had experience of home delivery
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Summary and Preliminary Analysis of Data from the Facility Assessments:
Top next steps for the project:

– Intervention follow-up discussions with priests and HDA
– Data extraction from intervention and control health centers
– Communicate findings with stakeholders (FMOH, EPHI, RHB etc…)

How data and results from your project will impact stakeholder decisions and the development problem:

– Data on how to achieve SDG targets for maternal and neonatal death is urgently needed
– This project with it creates strong civic participation and social accountability

Challenges you have faced in collecting meaningful data:

– Transportation, incomplete registers, under reporting of adverse events in the community