



Family Planning counseling during Nutrition Weeks (vitamin A, deworming) in Mali

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Context



- In Mali 79% of postpartum women have an unmet need for family planning (DHS 2006).
- Postpartum women have numerous contacts with the health system while seeking child health and nutrition services.
- One opportunity is the National Nutrition Week (NNW) which is held every six months at fixed sites (CSCOM) and provides over 70% of women in the immediate postpartum period (IPP) with vitamin A and deworming. Mothers of children under five also participate.
- The NNW provides an opportunity to integrate family planning interpersonal counseling (IPC) into nutrition activities and to mobilize IPP women who are potential clients for Family Planning

Objectives



- Test integration and acceptance of FP messages with NNW setting; fixed site distribution
- Maintain low cost approach – counseling, targeting and not distribution of FP services
- Test nutrition link (exclusive breastfeeding, infant health) as a “gateway” to discussing return to fertility and explain family planning choices
- Test community, health center support roles for integrated approach

Background of Intervention



- ATN Plus is a consortium of five partner organizations – all of which contributed to the implementation of this activity.
- The pilot integration activity was implemented in two phases, July 2011 (in six health sub districts) and December 2011 (in 29 health sub districts/ community health centers) in San, Mali.
Population: 366,000
- Activities were conducted by the Nutrition and Reproductive Health divisions of the MOH; local, district and regional MOH and Ministry of Social Affairs technicians, local radio operators, community leaders and civil society partners. Technical and financial support provided by USAID / ATN Plus.

Methodology



- Introductory and planning meetings with national, regional and district stakeholders
- Orientation of Community Health Center (CSCOM) technical directors, auxiliary midwives, relays, and radio station officials.
- Message development on IPPFP counseling; exclusive breastfeeding and return to fertility
- Messages broadcast on rural radio during NNW activities and interpersonal communication on FP
- During the IPPFP counseling, women were given a **plastic ticket*** which they presented at the health center for FP services after the NNWs.
- Follow up data collection on new FP users, qualitative survey in the health sub districts

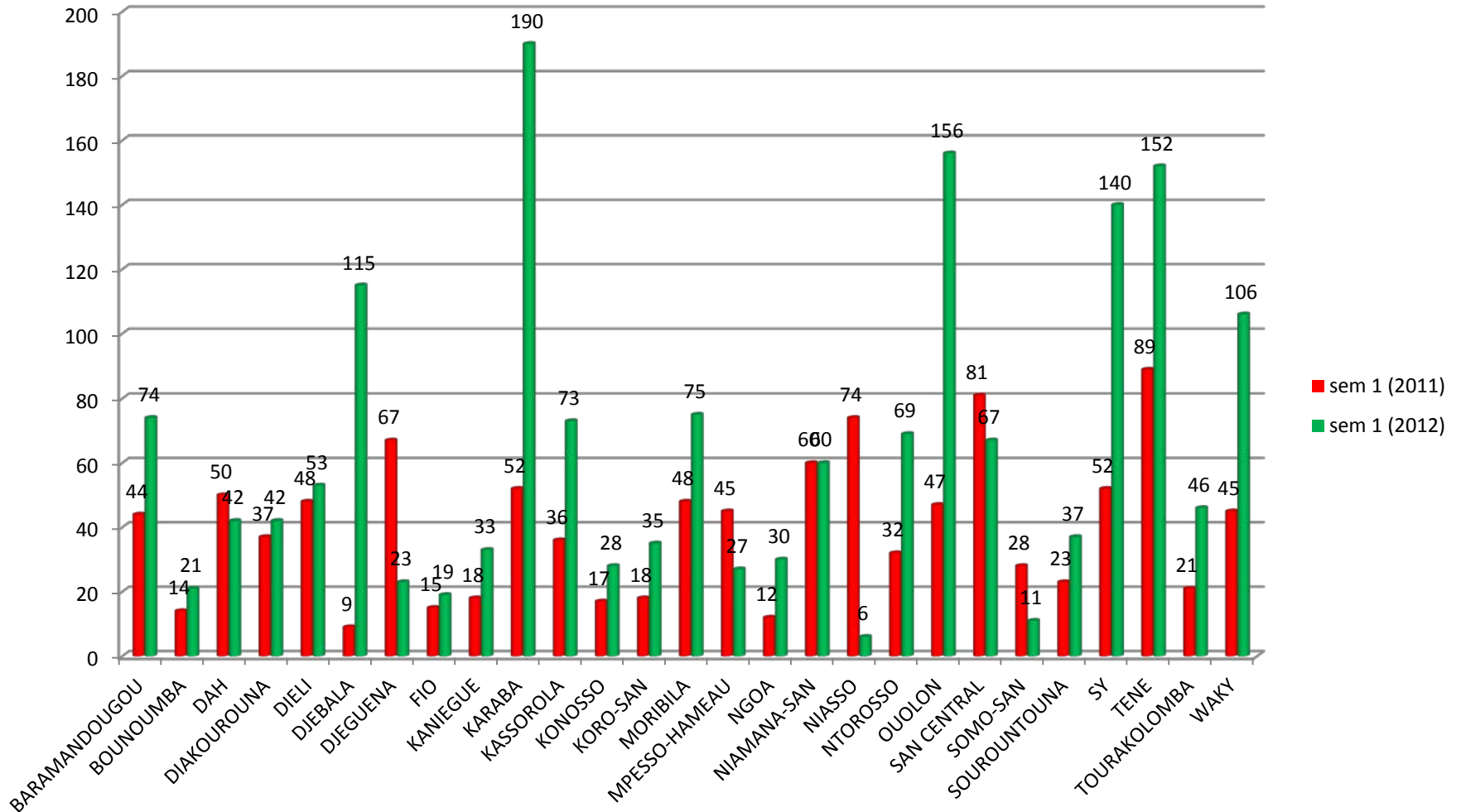


Results

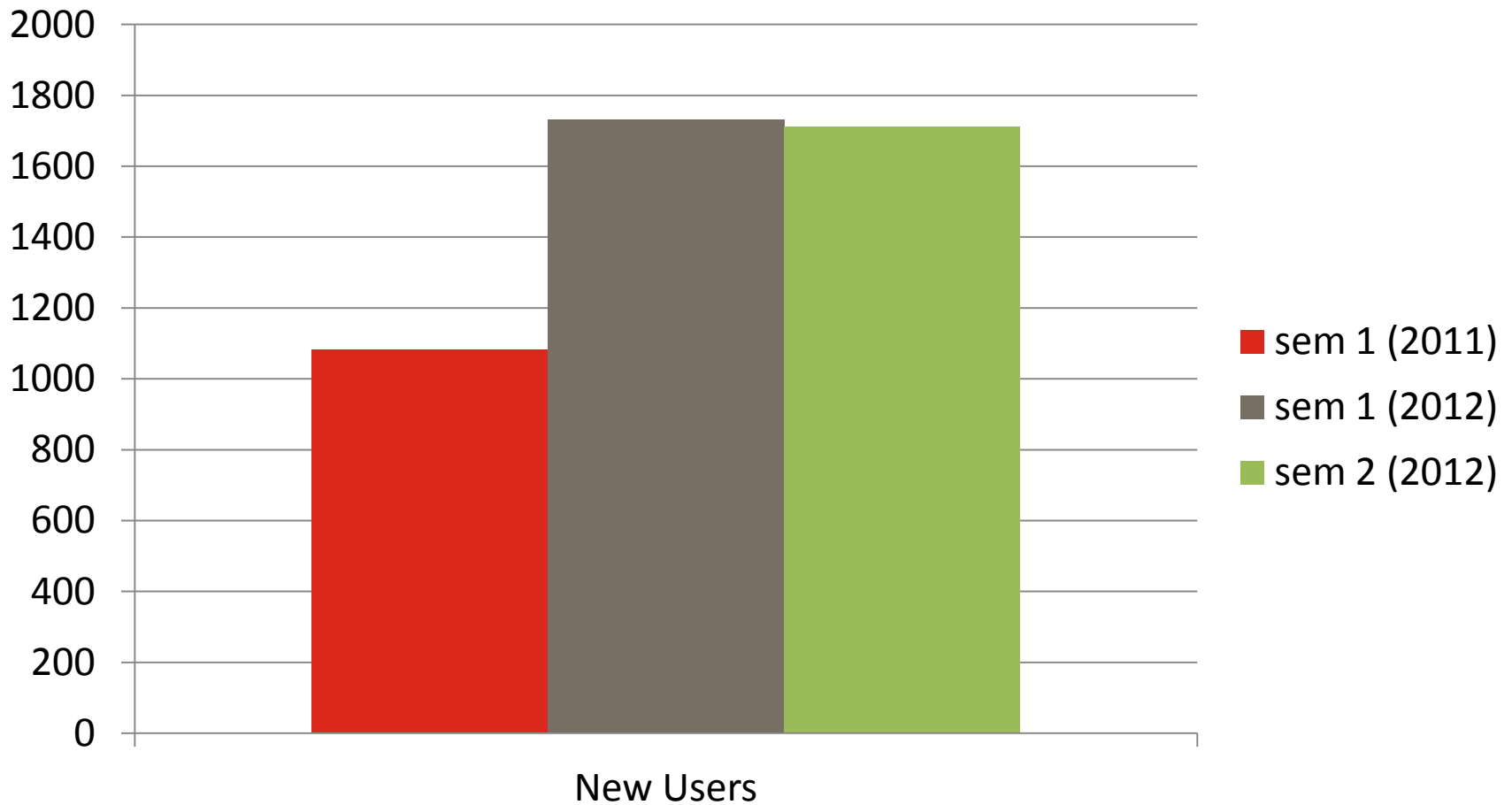


- **Over 98% of IPP women reached by NNWs participated in interpersonal counseling sessions on FP**
- Difference in the number of new users from six months before pilot period (Jan-June 2011) compared to six months after pilot (Jan-June 2012) showed a significant increase (in some sub districts almost doubling).
- Local communities and stakeholders support along with the use of local radio for message broadcasting have been major success factors to the observed increase of new users of family planning
- Communities, providers and clients support the integration of Family planning and nutrition

Results by Sub districts



Total New Users: San



Conclusions / Lessons Learned



- The success of the pilot activity demonstrated that women **can** receive family planning information in a child health / nutrition setting.
- The activity can be scaled up at **low cost** as women are already seeking nutrition services and the addition of FP counseling is feasible through messages on **exclusive breastfeeding, return to fertility and the advantages of child spacing**
- **Smart integration** of several activities to reduce missed opportunities can increase service performance.



Thanks



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- Staff of San health district and Social affairs;
- Staff from 29 Community Health Centers (CSCOM) of San district;
- ATN Plus staff
- Stakeholders and representatives of local radio stations



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