

Abstract

Increasing Access to Ultrasound and Obstetric / Neonatal Training Education in Uganda

Ernest Cook Ultrasound Research and Education Institute (ECUREI) in Uganda and RAD impact.

In 2015 a partnership was established between the Ernest Cook Ultrasound Research and Education Institute (ECUREI) in Uganda and Rad Impact, a United States based non-profit organization dedicated to improving maternal and child health abroad. ECUREI, in collaboration with the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau (UPMB), selected 12 rural Ugandan prenatal clinics that had low antenatal care attendance rates to receive ultrasound machines from Rad Impact. These 12 clinics each sent a midwife to receive ultrasound training in a 6-week intensive course offered through ECUREI in January 2016. In January 2017 each of the 12 previous clinics plus an additional 7 clinics sent representatives to attend two training courses. A team of 7 doctors and a nurse traveled to Uganda to teach the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics and Helping Babies Survive courses to 19 course participants including physicians, midwives and clinical officers. Additionally, a radiologist and engineer worked one on one with the ECUREI faculty to trouble shoot issues with the ultrasound machines and provide additional training to the radiologists. All students passed both maternal and neonatal practical examinations, demonstrating competency in managing common peripartum emergency situations. The course received very positive feedback from the students and instructors. A site visit to one of the rural clinics indicated that the ultrasound machine has been in frequent use and is well received by the patient community. Plans are already underway to select additional sites to receive ultrasound machines and training in 2018