

The Global Leaders Council for Reproductive Health
Presents the 2013 Resolve Award for Financing to:

THE GAMBIA



Riders for Health/Tom Oldham

In 2012, the Gambia became the first African country with enough health-care delivery vehicles to service its entire population, thanks to an innovative partnership between The Gambian government and Riders for Health, a social enterprise organization.

Challenges

Unpaved roads, an aging fleet of health transport vehicles and unreliable fuel supply prevented many Gambians from accessing needed health services. These conditions posed special challenges for reproductive health, given the importance of regular antenatal care and swift intervention in obstetric emergencies.

Policy Innovations

With support from the Clinton Global Initiative and the Skoll Foundation, Riders for Health secured bank funding to purchase a new fleet of health transport vehicles—ambulances, SUVs and motorcycles. Riders for Health is responsible for maintaining the fleet, which it leases to The Gambia's Ministry of Health for a not-for-profit, fixed fee. In addition, Riders for Health:

- Conducts training for in-country drivers and maintenance staff
- Constructs workshops and service facilities for health transport vehicles
- Maintains a monitoring and evaluation system to track and report ongoing performance

Results

The result has been a dramatic improvement in health care delivery:

- Outreach health workers can visit three times as many villages each week, spending twice as long in each location
- Health workers see 6,000 more people every week than they did without access to transport
- Antenatal women and other medical emergencies are routinely referred to the next level of care; three times more patients are referred from health centers to hospitals
- Outreach clinics provide maternal and child care on a scheduled basis, ensuring access to family planning, immunizations, and prevention of maternal-to-child transmission of HIV
- More than 90 percent of Gambian children are now immunized
- The Gambia's health transport fleet has logged 10 million kilometers since 2009, without a single breakdown due to lack of maintenance



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