



The Role of Local Communities in Supporting Maternal Health Initiatives in Djibouti: A Short Report

Mohamed Ismaël Robleh¹, Kadra Mahamoud Moussa^{1,2}, Aïcha Hassan Ali¹

¹ University of Djibouti

² Department of Clinical Research, University of Djibouti

Published: 20 January 2016 | **Received:** 12 September 2015 | **Accepted:** 25 November 2015

Correspondence: mrobleh@aol.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18539824](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18539824)

Author notes

Mohamed Ismaël Robleh is affiliated with University of Djibouti and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Kadra Mahamoud Moussa is affiliated with University of Djibouti and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Aïcha Hassan Ali is affiliated with University of Djibouti and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

Maternal health outcomes in Djibouti are poor. Although national and international programmes exist, the specific role of local community structures in supporting these initiatives is not well documented. This short report describes and analyses the perceived role of local communities in supporting maternal health initiatives in Djibouti. It identifies key support mechanisms and barriers to effective community engagement. We conducted a desk-based review and synthesis of available project reports, programme evaluations, and relevant grey literature. Insights from a small number of key informant interviews with local health workers and community representatives supplemented the review. Community health workers and traditional birth attendants were crucial intermediaries. Women's social networks were a prominent theme, facilitating antenatal care attendance and postnatal support. A key barrier was the limited formal integration of these community actors into the primary healthcare system. Local communities in Djibouti provide essential, culturally grounded support for maternal health initiatives through trusted individuals and social networks. Their potential is constrained by a lack of structured integration and resource allocation. Formalise the role of community health workers within the national health strategy. Develop targeted training and sustainable supervision mechanisms for community-based supporters. Foster stronger collaborative linkages between community actors and formal health facilities. Maternal health, community engagement, Djibouti, community health workers, health systems, West Africa This report synthesises evidence to highlight the under-utilised potential of local community structures in Djibouti's maternal health landscape, offering practical insights for programme design.

Keywords: *Maternal health, Community participation, Sub-Saharan Africa, Health systems strengthening, Community health workers, Djibouti, Qualitative research*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

REQUEST FULL PAPER

 **Email:** info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

 **Submit at:** app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge