



Strengthening Midwifery Globally



Investing in Midwives

UNFPA and ICM Partnership on Strengthening Midwifery Global Maternal Health Conference

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LAUNCH

- Launched jointly by UNFPA and ICM in 2008 with the slogan “The World needs midwives now more than ever – to save the lives of mothers and babies.”
- In response to the call for a *Decade of Action for Human Resources for Health* made at the World Health Assembly in 2006.





GOAL



- To improve/increase provision of midwifery services in low-income priority countries

Conviction:

1. Midwifery addresses all 3 key pillars:
FP, SkaB, EmOC
2. Scaling up Midwifery would help address not only MDGs 4 and 5 but also 3 and 6



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- Initially launched with Swedish funding of approx. USD \$ 1.5m in 2008. Current annual budget of approx 4-5m.
- Programme fully merged with UNFPA's Maternal Health Thematic Fund effective 1 April 2009. Biggest supporters are Sweden, the Netherlands and other donors to MHTF (Austria, Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, Ireland)
- Currently 22 countries supported on midwifery – 14 under the direct umbrella of UNFPA-ICM joint programme.



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PROGRAMME FOCUS



Capacity Building:

- Strengthening **Education** and accreditation mechanisms
- Strengthening **Regulation** mechanisms
- Promotion and development of **Midwifery Associations**
- Policy level **Advocacy**

A “critical mass” of Midwifery Advisors work nationally and regionally to provide strategic direction in midwifery capacity building.

Programme Structure and Management



ICM

- International Midwife Advisor (IMA) – overall technical supervision
- Regional Midwife Advisors (RMAs) – Technical support and Capacity Development
 - Anglophone Africa
 - Francophone Africa
 - Asia
 - Latin America (future)

UNFPA

- International Programme Coordinator – global coordination & mgt, advocacy/communication, donor coordination
- Country Midwife Advisors (mostly national, some international)

CORE STEERING GROUP (ICM & UNFPA) MANAGES, AND STRATEGICALLY STEERS THE PROGRAMME



FORGING OF ICM/UNFPA PARTNERSHIP



Similarities in Vision and Mandates

- ICM envisions a world where every child bearing woman has access to a midwife's care for herself and her newborn
- ICM's mission:
 - strengthen member associations to advance the profession of midwifery globally by promoting autonomous midwives as the most appropriate caregivers for childbearing women.
- UNFPA's mandate is: Every pregnancy should be safe and every birth wanted. Follows a 3 pillar strategy- FP, SkaB and EmOC



UNFPA-ICM PARTNERSHIP



UNFPA

- Provides links with governments at national level (MoH, MoE, MoHR etc)
- Further enhancing linkages with on-going country programmes and other partnerships for sustainability
- UN Credibility and vast networks with UN and CSO
- Logistical support
- Generating financial resources (donors and also regular)
- Communication and advocacy
- Linkages with other major global initiatives and integration with H4 and IHP work



STRENGTHS OF ICM

ICM

- Technical Expertise (global standards)
- Actual voices of the midwives and their needs through linkages with midwifery associations, regional colleges of Nursing and Midwifery, Ministries of Health and regulatory bodies
- It is ICM agenda - promoting midwifery
- ICM network of partnerships with related professional associations and development partners (FIGO, IPA, POPPHI, JHPIEGO, UN system)
- Working on global regulation of midwifery services



ADDED STRENGTHS OF PARTNERSHIP



UNFPA

- UNFPA, from New York HQs supports development priorities of 155 countries through global network of 129 country offices.
- UNFPA's integrated programmes focus: on RHR, Adolescent SRHR, basic package of services (ANC/PNC, HIV and STI prevention, EmOc, SkaB), culture, gender and human rights, gender equality and data for development. Midwifery falls squarely in its mandate.
- Belief that UN reform, system wide coherence and development effectiveness can only be reached through partnerships.



ICM



- ICM supports 99 Member Associations in 88 countries.
- ICM represents the voice and needs of midwives.
- ICM works with midwives and midwifery associations globally to secure women's right, promote empowerment and access to midwifery care during adolescence, and before, during and after childbirth.



PROGRESS UPDATE

- Desk reviews and needs assessments
 - Completed/ongoing with regard to identification of gaps in education and training of midwives (pre-service and in-service)
 - Legislative and regulatory policy environment to allow midwives to deliver life-saving interventions
 - Capacity assessments of midwifery schools (ongoing/completed)
 - Strengthening (in some cases creation) of professional midwifery associations.

Partnership strengths: UNFPA provided its networks and ICM brought its technical expertise and training on how to conduct effective, in-depth NAs.



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Needs Assessments cont...

- Based on findings, ICM and UNFPA are working jointly on advocating with MoH for devising proper Midwifery Strategies and revising their national RH strategies and plans. A new Midwifery Strategy now exists in North Sudan and a Midwifery Improvement Plan has been developed in Uganda.
- Also used in the recent launches of CARMMA Campaign in Ghana and Uganda.



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ASSOCIATION



- Capacity building of existing association and development of new associations (jointly by UNFPA and ICM midwifery advisors)
- New Associations – examples
 - Ethiopia – 2 regional associations established, N Sudan and Guyana; most recently in Bangladesh and Zambia is in progress.
- Capacity Building – equipment, advocacy skills, networking, web-sites (Ghana, Benin, Madagascar etc)
- IDM celebration – raising visibility and profile of profession

Partnership strengths - ICM provides technical expertise and linkages with associations while UNFPA provides network and resources



REGULATION

- **Initiation and development of guidelines on Midwifery regulations – N. Sudan**
- **Bringing together regulatory bodies and stakeholders to address issues on quality assurance and standards of midwifery care (Ghana)**
- **Creation of awareness of separate role for midwifery and nursing (Burundi, Cote D'Ivoire)**

Partnership strengths - UNFPA has existing linkages with Ministries of Health and there is recognition of ICM's global advocacy position by policy makers in countries



SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PARTNERSHIPS



ICM has helped establish partnerships with the following:

POPPHI /FIGO– Joint statement on AMSTL

WACN and ECSACON – Towards improvement in the professionalization and visibility of midwifery

**WRA, African Midwifery Research Network (AMRN)
Uganda**

IPAS – Midwifery Association in Burkina Faso for training in abortion-related complications

FASFACO – Encouraging leadership to ensure building of strong francophone midwifery associations



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BUILDING SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PARTNERS



Midwifery Symposium - 5-6 June 2010, Washington DC,
aligned with Women Deliver

UNFPA and ICM organized it in partnership with - WHO,
UNICEF, WB, GHWA, JHPIEGO, FIGO

Achievements:

- massive visibility to role of midwifery in addressing MDGs 4 and 5 in particular;
- Awareness on challenges facing midwifery (experience sharing)
- Launch of Joint Call to Action by 8 agencies- global movement and enhanced commitments

CHALLENGES IN OUR PARTNERSHIP

- Differences in inter-agency policies
- Intra and Inter organization communication - line of command varies in the two organizations; consensus building on some issues takes time
- Differences in availability of key players for discussions
- Programmatic constraints - (packed activities with frequent travels; short notice on activities)

HOW WE ARE MAKING IT WORK



- Policies - Learn the rules in each organization
- Intra and Inter organization communication - Continue to dialogue till issues are addressed
- Availability of key players - Work on planning ahead of time
- Programmatic constraints - Strategize on ad hoc activities and plan ahead



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TIME IS NOW...



- Favorable International Environment
 - Joint Statement on MNH by H4 – WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WB in Sept 2008.
 - Joint country support plan for accelerated implementation of MNH care in 25 high priority countries
 - Mapping exercise of in-country activities
 - Joint work on RHCS and MNH commodities
- Global Call to Action on Midwifery (all major UN agencies in June 2010 during Women Deliver)
- Increasing recognition that Midwives represent the key essential health workforce that needs strengthening to address MDGs 4 & 5



ANSWER IS...

Only joining hands and enhanced partnerships provide the solution!



We thank you.