

RCOG
International Office



Royal College of
Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists

— IN PARTNERSHIP WITH —

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health

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STRATEGY

In recognition of its wide international membership and conscious of the need to make an urgent contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the RCOG International Office wishes to provide effective and rapid action to:

- increase awareness, making 'visible' to politicians, professionals and the public the need for more effective use of knowledge and tools to impact on maternal and newborn health indicators.
- strengthening health systems to facilitate the implementation and scale-up of good practice
- develop and apply new knowledge gathered through research which meets local needs and directly informs policy.

Working in partnership with other UK and international agencies, the RCOG International Office will build on its existing core business and the global RCOG network to play the following key roles:

Advocacy: raising the agenda of maternal health at global, regional and national levels through its existing structure of publications (including web based), scientific conferences and working parties, as well as through new ventures such as the commissioning of advocacy films and other reportage.

Technical: focusing on capacity development through training, exchange programmes and setting of standards and guidelines that are adapted to and relevant to the local situation.

Strategic and programmatic: working with governments and international organisations at programme and policy level to improve quality of care and assist with monitoring and evaluation.

To draw on the expertise and experience of the RCOG and its global network of members to make an effective and valued contribution to improving sexual and reproductive health care worldwide and in particular to reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.

Specific aims:

- Identify and prioritise needs in sexual and reproductive health in developing/resource-poor countries, with a focus on maternal and neonatal health.
- Establish active and genuine collaborations inclusive of other professionals involved in promoting sexual and reproductive health internationally, especially midwives.
- Develop capacity of existing health systems in developing/resource-poor countries to meet demand and provide a standard of care that will improve women's health.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES

- Where effective interventions are known, develop operational research to identify and overcome barriers to implementation.
- Where effective interventions are not known, develop and pilot new interventions.
- Work with local health care providers to implement and scale up the results.
- Establish active links with policy makers.
- Maintain a central portfolio of current international projects and activities directly focused on reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in resource-poor countries.
- Maintain a database documenting expertise and skills of Fellows and Members of the RCOG worldwide in the area of reproductive health in developing countries. This will include programme development, management training and technical assistance as well as clinical skills and expertise.
- Design and pilot short training seminars for Fellows and Members on how to provide 'technical assistance' and 'consultancy' in the international arena.
- Submit expressions of interest (EOI) and proposals as part of wider consortia of experts for work in the area of maternal health (and/or sexual and reproductive health).
- Develop and launch a Life Saving Skills Manual with a focus on essential obstetric and newborn care for use by midwives, clinical officers, medical assistants and doctors working in resource-poor settings.
- Develop and deliver a short life saving skills course that focuses on essential obstetric and newborn care and can be offered to healthcare providers in resource-poor countries.
- Develop and disseminate up to date guidelines that are relevant to and can be used by developing countries on key areas of global maternal morbidity such as malaria and HIV in pregnancy.
- Assist countries with implementation of evidence-based, good-quality care; for example, through maternal death audit and criterion/standards-based audit