

time to make **a difference**

Reducing maternal and newborn mortality



The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists International Office (RCOGIO) is a formal partnership, established in 2005 between the **Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG)**, **Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)** and **Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health (LATH)**.

The combination of the RCOG's dedication to improve women's health internationally and LSTM and LATH with their recognised expertise in pro-poor research, capacity development and providing international technical assistance and programme management, has created a powerful alliance to make a significant impact on reducing maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity in developing countries.

The overall aim of RCOGIO is to develop the institutional capacity of organisations as well as capacity of individuals within the public and private sector to provide high-quality and evidence-based health care and services that will improve maternal and newborn health. To achieve this aim we draw on the expertise and experience of this partnership and our extended global networks to make an effective and valued contribution to improving Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) worldwide.



Kenya Essential Health Services Programme

We are supporting the Ministry of Health at national, provincial and district level in strengthening maternal and newborn health services, including Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC), including improvement of the physical infrastructure of health facilities, provision of equipment, training of staff in life saving skills and strengthening of the referral system.

Progress and Challenges

The reduction of maternal and newborn mortality is one of the key goals of the Millennium Declaration. More than 529,000 women die each year as a result of complications of pregnancy and childbirth. This toll is almost entirely avoidable; we know how to prevent these deaths. Each year nearly 4 million newborn babies die and 3.3 million are still born with almost 90% of these deaths occurring in Africa and Asia. The outcome for these babies is directly linked to care received by women during and after pregnancy and childbirth. When women are able to access health care, it is primarily during the time of pregnancy and childbirth; these contacts must be optimally used to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Contraceptive prevalence is also lowest in many of these parts of the world.

In resource poor countries, health systems are generally weak and there is often insufficient infrastructure, equipment and supplies as well as severe shortages of health workers and their inequitable distribution. The provision of skilled birth attendance (SBA) and essential obstetric care (EOC) for pregnant women during labour, delivery and the immediate postpartum period is a key strategy to achieving MDG5.

What can we offer?

We are committed to helping countries tackle the major challenges in delivering effective interventions through ensuring sustainable and integrated capacity development with national partners, using evidenced based policies and strategies and addressing sexual and reproductive health within a wider health systems context.



Improving Safe-Motherhood Services in Nigeria

We have been working at Federal, State and local government levels supporting safe motherhood programmes. Recent technical inputs include conducting a needs assessment for provision of safe motherhood services, strengthening capacity of the state Ministry of Health (MoH) and State Safe Motherhood Committee to develop and manage Safe Motherhood Programmes, to introduce maternal death audit and obstetric protocols in hospitals and strengthen monitoring and evaluation.

We have an established and proven track record working with a range of clients including DFID, USAID, WHO, European Commission and The Health Foundation. Our partnership has extensive clinical and technical expertise in strengthening sexual

and reproductive health programmes and we have broad experience in supporting services at all levels of the health system including:

- Contribution to global policy making
- National policy development
- Strategic and operational planning
- Needs assessment with a focus on maternal and newborn health
- Capacity development of health professionals through pre-service and in-service training and continuing professional development
- Tailor-made training courses e.g. life saving skills (LSS) and essential obstetric care(EOC)
- Design and implementation of quality improvement programmes e.g. using maternal death audits and criteria based audits
- Strengthening essential laboratory services
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Development of operational research
- Teaching and academic linkages including Diploma in Reproductive Health, Masters in International Sexual and Reproductive Health and PhDs.

We also have considerable experience in human resources for health, health systems strengthening, health economics and financing, and the control of malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and the neglected tropical diseases. Our inter-disciplinary, health systems approach to developing effective interventions ensures delivery of integrated and sustainable solutions to improving sexual and reproductive health.





Royal College of Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists in partnership with
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health



www.lath.com

For more information

Please contact us directly to discuss
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