

## The Role of Health Care Professionals in Reaching MDGs 4 and 5 Draft Concept note and Agenda

Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 9-11 August 2010

### Background

In September 2006, the international health care professional (HCP) associations affiliated with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) issued a Joint Statement to guide HCPs in their efforts to work with key stakeholders on issues related to advocacy, capacity development, and implementation of health policies for women and children at country level.

The launch of this statement was followed by a meeting of HCP Associations, facilitated by the PMNCH, to identify strategies for increasing the effectiveness of HCP Associations in contributing to country efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 (reduce child mortality and improve maternal health, respectively). Among the challenges discussed was the need to strengthen the role of HCP Associations in national level planning and decision making for maternal, newborn and child health. This need was also highlighted at the 2007 PMNCH Partners' Forum and other high-level meetings including the *Multi-country Forum on Engaging the Private Sector in Child Health (in Africa)* held in Munyonyo, Uganda in November 2005.

In addition, the *World Health Report, 2006, "Working together for health"*, emphasized the potential role of HCP Associations in addressing the human resource crisis in MNCH. These events served as a catalyst for the development of a series of multi-country workshops sponsored by the PMNCH Secretariat in consultation with an HCP Workshops Advisory Group<sup>1</sup>. The workshops bring together representatives of country governments, development partners, and HCP associations at national, regional and international levels. The aim of the workshops is to establish a common vision across participants and develop feasible approaches for maximizing the contribution of HCP Associations in the development and implementation of national-level maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) policies and programmes.

The first of these workshops took place in Blantyre, Malawi, in November 2007 and involved the participation of 6-8 member country teams from Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. Each country team was composed of representatives of HCPAs and senior government officials. Resource persons from regional and international HCP associations and UN agencies also participated in the meeting to provide input into the discussions and learn from the country teams their role in national level planning for MNCH.

The second, third and fourth workshops were held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in March 2008, Dhaka, Bangladesh, in November 2008 and Amman, Jordan in December 2009, respectively. Countries represented at these workshops include: Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Niger and Senegal; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar Nepal and Pakistan; and Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, UAE and Yemen. Several

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<sup>1</sup> Members are representatives on the PMNCH Board of the International Paediatric Association, the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists, and the International Confederation of Midwives

regional and international organizations were also represented such as UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and AusAID .

The fifth workshop will take place in Bolivia and involve participation of nine countries in the Latin America region: Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay, Colombia, Chile and Brazil. The objective and agenda of the Bolivia workshop reflects lessons learned from the previous four workshops and was developed in close consultation with participating HCP associations in the Latin America region. Specifically, the agenda includes a greater focus on resource mobilization as this was identified as a crucial factor in the ability of HCP associations to carry out their country action plans. The high level of development and involvement of HCP associations in the Latin American region in the planning processes for MNCH also necessitated a shift in topic selection for the workshop presentations to an emphasis on innovative implementation strategies to improve service delivery rather than a focus on capacity building of HCPAs.

## Objective

The overall objective of the Bolivia workshop is to increase the contribution of HCP Associations to the improvement of women's and children's health through the development of innovative strategies for increasing the quality and use of available services.

This workshop will facilitate the achievement of this objective through:

- Presentations and discussions on:
  - Key constraints to the provision and use of high quality health care services and best practice examples of how these constraints have been resolved;
  - Regional initiatives that provide financial, in kind or technical support to country institutions working on MNCH;
- Country group work resulting in the development of:
  - A nation-wide, inclusive HCPA network;
  - A 2-year strategy aimed at the removal of key barriers to the provision and use of optimal health care services ;
  - A resource mobilization plan to generate the financial, technical and other support needed to implement the 2-year strategy;
  - A statement of commitment to be presented to the Ministry of Health (MoH) which outlines the 2-year strategy and how the MoH can support its implementation.

The workshop will also provide participants with an opportunity to begin establishing an HCPA network as a first step to building cross professional and regional collaboration.

## Agenda

### 9 August, 20

- 07:30 - 08:30 Registration
- 09:00 - 09:05 Introductory comments: *Dr Carlos Futchner, International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology*
- 09:05 - 09:10 Welcome - *Dr Victor Hugo Parada, President of the Bolivian Medical College*
- 09:10 - 09:20 Opening Speech: *Dr Sonia Soto, Past Defensora del Pueblo - Ombudsman*
- 09:20 - 09:30 The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, MDGs 4 and 5: Where we are now, and what needs to be done? *Dr Andres de Francisco, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health*
- 09:30 - 09:45 State of maternal, newborn and child health programmes in Bolivia: *Dr Johnny Vedia, Director National Health, Ministry of Health and Sports*
- 09:45 - 10:05 The role of WHO and Health care professional associations in maternal, newborn and child health programmes in the region, *Dr Bremen de Mucio, CLAP*
- 10:05 - 10:10 Vote of Thanks: *Dr Ermel Balderrama, President, Bolivian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology*
- 10:10 - 10:25 Coffee Break
- 10:25 - 10:40 Situation of MNCH in the region and the role of health care professional associations, *Dr Carlos Futchner, International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology*
- 10:40 - 12:05 Presentations - Innovative solutions to constraints to the provision of quality services across the MNCH continuum of care
- Argentina - Mrs Hilda Ridgriguez
  - Paraguay - Dr. Ida Esquivel
  - Peru - Dr Luis Meza
  - Ecuador - Dr Felix Carrera Cedeño
  - Uruguay - Mrs Anna Labandera
  - Colombia - Dr Carlos Quinteros
  - Brazil - Dr Olimpio Bardosa de Moraes
- 12:05 - 13:00 Questions / comments from the floor
- 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch
- 13:30 - 15:00 Country group work - defining key constraints to the provision of care
- 15:00 - 16:00 Presentations - Opportunities for scaled up action a
- South-South collaboration - Dr Sylvia Santander
  - Mobil technologies for Health (m-health alliance) - Dr Walter Curioso
  - Neonatal alliance - Mrs Bertha Pooley
- 16:00 - 16:30 Questions / comments from the floor

- 16:30 - 16:45 Tea break  
16:30 - 17:30 Country group work - mapping opportunities and the way forward

### **10 August 2010**

- 09:00 - 09:15 Recap and agenda for country group work  
09:15 - 11:00 Country Group Work Session cont'd  
11:00 - 11:15 Coffee break  
11:15 - 12:30 Feedback in plenary on group work progress  
12:30 - 13:30 Lunch  
13:30 - 15:30 Country Group Work Session cont'd  
15:30 - 15:45 Tea break  
15:45 - 16:00 Feedback in plenary on group work progress  
15:30 - 17:00 Country Group Work Session

### **11 August 2010**

- 9:00 - 9:20 Recap  
9:00 - 10:30 Country presentations (5 minutes each with 10 minutes comments)  
10:30 - 10:45 Coffee break  
10:45 - 11:30 Country presentations cont'd  
11:30 - 12:00 Workshop overview, *Dr. Carlos Futchner, Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology*  
12:00 - 12:30 Closing  
12:30 - 13:30 Lunch