Post Partum Family Planning Operations Research

**Objectives and Background**
Under the agreement with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RHR is initiating a two year Operations Research project focusing on meeting unmet need for women during the post partum period. This activity is part of the overall work referred to as “Muskoka” which has been implemented since 2011 by RHR in collaboration with the WHO Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health Department, UNFPA; UNICEF and UNWomen.

The theme of post partum family planning was chosen as a priority for Operations Research by the RHR family planning team with agreement by the French government and partners due to the high percentage of unmet need in this population. Access to family planning (FP) is a human right (WHO guidance and recommendations). FP is at the heart of Action plan of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. It is also a crucial component of health care during the prenatal period, immediately after childbirth and during the first year after childbirth. It is well established that the FP will prevent over 30% of maternal deaths and 10% of child deaths if couples leave at least two years between pregnancies (Cleland et al., 2006).

**Geographic location**
Burkina Faso and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

**Main deliverables**
The core intervention is aiming at assessing whether FP counselling and provision of services during antenatal, post-delivery and postpartum care can improve the uptake and continuation of FP. Implement a set of interventions” (as conceived in the formative phase) at the MNCH services of primary health care centres, and measure the effect of the intervention package on the use of FP methods immediately postpartum, six days, six weeks, five to six months and eight to nine months after delivery, compared with the usual PPFP services provided in the control health centres.

**Partners**
The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the WHO Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health Department, UNFPA; UNICEF and UNWomen

**Sources of funding**
Muskoka

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