



Short Course on

Maternal Mortality Reduction in Resource Limited Settings: Learning from Evidence

1. Background Information of the Course

Every year, about 7.5 million deaths worldwide are related to complications during pregnancy and birth (maternal deaths 0.5 million, stillbirths 4 million and early neonatal deaths 3 million). This figure is by far higher than the global estimated annual deaths due to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (5 million). Globally, sub-Saharan Africa accounts for more than half of all maternal deaths. Although reducing maternal and perinatal mortality has been at the top of the global health agenda for the last 20 years, and 74-98% of maternal deaths could be averted even in most parts of sub-Saharan Africa, the reduction rate of these deaths in this region remains extremely low. While countries in Latin America and Northern Africa reduced maternal mortality by 26 and 36% respectively between 1990 and 2005, sub-Saharan Africa has had the least reduction of less than 2%. The annual decrease rate of maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa was 0.1% which is by far below the 5.5% annual decline rate, which is necessary to achieve the fifth Millennium Development Goal i.e. maternal mortality reduction, by 2015. In Tanzania maternal mortality ratio has remained high for the last 10 years without decline (529/100,000 live births in 1996 against 578/100,000 live births in 2005).

The course provides lead district and regional key actors with state-of-the-art knowledge and implementation skills on the most effective interventions for maternal healthcare in resource constraint settings. This course will be facilitated by top experts from Tanzania, The Netherlands and Sweden with vast experiences in the area. It will also provide a platform for operational research and other opportunities to the participants.

2. Date: December 7 - 11, 2009

3. Educational Objectives

At the end of the course successful participants will be able to:

1. Describe and understand the current state, causes and the associated factors of maternal mortality in Tanzania and other selected countries.
2. Articulate the strategic plan of the national road map to accelerate reduction of maternal and newborn deaths in Tanzania (2006-2010): specific objectives, the operational targets to be achieved, related activities and implementation framework
3. Internalize the role of district health managers in effecting implementation of the most effective evidence-based interventions at the district level.
4. Describe the most effective evidence-based interventions and their impact on reducing maternal mortality.
5. Describe the phases of effective planning and implementation of the essential maternal healthcare interventions: logical framework for designing and implementing these interventions using locally available resources.

4. Desirable Learning Outcomes

Solid knowledge with regard to current state of maternal health as well as skills to select, develop and implement an effective set of evidence-based interventions based on the local situation and existing resources.

I am going to deliver a baby. But the process is dangerous and I may not return..



5. Target Audience: District medical officers, RCH coordinators, district nursing officers, heads of hospitals, health-policy makers in the ministries of health and all other interested from resource limited countries.

6. Teaching methods: Learner Centred, Problem Posing, Self-discovery and Action Oriented Approach (LePSA). Success stories regarding maternal mortality reduction from resource limited countries, presentations from the course participants about the current state of maternal healthcare and the underlying factors in their districts, regions and countries will be presented and discussed. The methods aim at stimulating the participants to analyse the situation, how to act upon the underlying factors, develop the culture of change and translate the acquired knowledge into action in order to improve the quality of maternal healthcare.

7. Course Fees: The course fee is 500,000 TSh (500 USD for foreign applicants). The fee will cover tuition, learning materials, library use, internet services, mid morning tea and lunch. The fee should be paid before September 30, 2009 into one of the following bank accounts:

- Account Name (for both accounts): Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health, Ifakara; Name of the Bank: NMB Ifakara
- TSH Account No. 2163500086 or USD Account No. 2167300001.

For further bank details about the forex remissions from abroad please contact us.

8. Venue: TTCIH, Ifakara Tanzania.

9. How to apply: Send your application letter to the Course Coordinator before July 31, 2009 (see address above). Please indicate your position and full contacts including emails, phone, etc.

10. Accommodation: Decent accommodations are available within TTCIH campus for 30,000/ TSh (30 USD) with AC, TV and internet connections, and for 20,000/ TSh (20 USD) per day including breakfast. You can also use accommodation facilities in Ifakara town for 10,000/ TSh (10 USD) per day.

For further information: Please visit our website or contact us directly through the above addresses.