



THE PARTNERSHIP
For Maternal, Newborn & Child Health



The Role of Health Care Professional Organizations in the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health

*"Each year, 11 million mothers, babies and young children die unnecessarily- preventable deaths -
Seven million of these lives could be saved with known, effective interventions"*

Many difficult issues perpetuate the unacceptable global tragedy of preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths and ill health. Several of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals call attention to these issues.

Real and lasting progress will be made in addressing this global tragedy only when effective working relationships can be established between national governments, development partners, and the personnel who provide the actual health care within individual countries.

Participants from international, regional and national Health Care Professional Organizations (HCPOs) met in Geneva in August 2006 with representation from Asia, Europe, Africa and America representing nurses, obstetricians/gynaecologists, midwives, paediatricians and pharmacists. This statement followed from that meeting.

The Role of Health Care Professionals

Health care professionals and their organizations have central roles to play in this process. These organizations represent highly trained professionals: physicians, nurses, midwives, and pharmacists. Such professionals live and work in countries throughout the world.

- They serve in all sectors: public, private, and non-governmental;
- They provide informed leadership in maternal, newborn, and child health, and constitute the core of health care for mothers, newborns, and children at country level;
- They also have vital roles to play in the education and training of all levels of health care personnel.

Health care professional organizations (HCPO's) are members of The Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). HCPO's are currently represented within the PMNCH by:

- FIGO (International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology)
- ICM (International Confederation of Midwives)
- ICN (International Council of Nurses)
- IPA (International Paediatric Association)
- COINN (Council of International Neonatal Nurses)
- FIP(International Pharmaceutical Federation)

Health care professionals are crucial for the success and sustainability of the following activities:

-Preserving health and treating illness in the areas of girls' health, women's health, reproductive health, healthy pregnancies, safe deliveries, newborn health, child health, and adolescent health.

-Teaching and training of health care professionals and other maternal and child health personnel at all levels.

-Establishing standards for evidence-based maternal, newborn, and child health curricula, interventions, service delivery strategies, and education at national, regional, and global levels, and monitoring health care practice and delivery.

-Providing leadership and assistance in planning, implementing, and monitoring programs.

-Advocating for maternal, newborn, and child health, and for attention to strengthening related health systems.

HCP National and Regional Actions

These international professional organizations are firmly committed to facilitating collaborations and actions at national and regional levels between their respective national and regional professionals to focus country and regional action on:

- Introducing and applying the principles of the Partnership for Maternal and Newborn and Child Health at international, national and regional levels.
- Promoting partnerships and collaborations between health care professionals and their organizations at all levels.
- Working closely with Ministries of Health and other pertinent government ministries and agencies.
- Working closely with stakeholders at national and regional levels, including UN agencies such as WHO, UNFPA, and UNICEF; university research networks; donor agencies, non-governmental organizations; and others.
- Pursuing a common agenda to address issues of maternal, newborn, and child health at national, regional, and global levels.
- Advocating for and championing maternal, newborn, and child health.

The Partnership support to HCPO's in Countries:

The Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health is firmly committed to facilitating and supporting the roles of health care professionals at country and regional levels by:

- Facilitating relationships at country level between national level health professional organizations and their Ministries of Health, other local and national governmental departments, United Nations Agencies, academic institutions, donor agencies non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

- Supporting and facilitating the work of health care professional societies at national and regional levels in activities related to maternal, newborn, and child health.
- Encouraging and supporting national and regional collaborations among health care professionals and their representative organizations for the promotion of maternal, newborn, and child health.
- Assuring that health care professional organizations play active roles in national and regional planning, implementation, and monitoring of programs in maternal, newborn, and child health.

Call to Action for HCPO's

Establishing effective and ongoing working relationships between government and development partners and health care professionals at all levels is essential to addressing the continuing tragedy of preventable maternal, newborn, and child death and ill health.

Both the Health Care Professional Organizations and the PMNCH are firmly committed to this goal.

Together, we ask that Ministries of Health, government agencies, United Nations agencies, university and research networks, non-governmental organizations, and donor and development agencies also commit to this goal.

This commitment will entail inclusion of health care professional organizations at all levels in planning and implementation of programs and initiatives through the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health.

The participants of the
PMNCH - Health Care Professional Organizations Group
Geneva, August 2006

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