



Leading initiative: Health Systems Strengthening for Equity: The Potential of Mid-Level Health Providers/Non physicians clinicians

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I. CONTEXT

- The crisis in human resources
- Health system strengthening for equity
- The power and potential of mid level provider/NPCs
- The political leadership (CARMMA, ICPD, BPfA, June Addis Ababa Call to action on Human resources for maternal Health and new-born survival).
- Producing evidence for policy change



II. INNOVATION: Training of non-clinician physicians

- NPCs are health professionals who are neither doctors nor nurses, but they provide significant clinical care specially in the most remote areas - also known as clinical officers, assistant medical officers, medical licentiates, or health officers.
- Training and deployment of non-physician clinicians (NPCs) or mid-level providers, to provide Emergency Obstetric Care is an innovative solution to the human resource crisis
- NPCs are trained in integrated emergency obstetric surgery
- NPCs contribute to reducing maternal mortality by giving emergency help especially in rural and remote deprived areas;
- At district hospital level in Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi around 90% of all caesarean sections are carried out by NPCs. Ethiopia and Zambia have started the training.



III. Benefits of NPCs

- NPCs are serving as an essential part of the health systems;
 - The experiences in four African countries with such programmes - Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia - shows that →
 - NPCs are teaming up with mid-wives in the health centres
 - NPCs are not substitutes but invaluable part of the health care professionals
- The retention rate of these NPCs has been much better than rates for professional doctors,
 - Less cost of training,
 - Less cost of deployment and remuneration,
 - Improved access to skilled health personnel during delivery.



IV. POLICY IMPLICATION

- The principle of task shifting
 - Major obstetric surgery by NPCs are allowed only in a few countries, there is need to influence countries to:
 - adopt the practice, use as part of comprehensive workforce
 - design supportive policies, and
 - allocate adequate resources for increasing the number of trained NPCs;
- It will link evidence and advocacy, research and policy.
- It will work at national, regional and global level.
- It will promote north-south and south-south cooperation.
- It will create an enabling environment to support NPC work.



V. CONCLUSION

The power and potential of Mid level providers/NPCs is a key strategy to strengthen the health system and uphold the fundamental human right to Health