



Concept Note

Africities Summit, KICC, 18-22 September Nairobi Kenya

Title: Saving the Lives of Mothers and Newborns: Working together to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals. (*WHO, Making Pregnancy Safer Department*).

Abstract: Maternal and newborn mortality remains unacceptable high in many developing countries, in particular in African countries with increasing trends observed in some countries. Declining investment in health sector, deteriorating condition of the health system including the current human resource crisis in most developing countries, especially those directly related with maternal and newborn health, as well as professional practice in these dire situations have a critical impact on maternal and newborn survival. Reducing maternal mortality requires not only strengthening of the health system but a collective effort by not just health care provider but by all stakeholders including Ministry of Health, Finance and Planning who are directly involved in decision making, policy formulation, Strategy development, investment plan, implementation and monitoring progress to save the lives of women and their newborns. Investing in improving maternal and newborn survival and health will help countries achieve MDG 5 as well as MDG 4 and 6. However, achieving the MDGs will require a collective effort by all stakeholders working together in harmony, and fostering a sense of common purpose dealing with maternal and newborn health, to ensure universal access to effective interventions and skilled care during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period.

This session will review the global and regional situations of maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality reduction, experiences from countries and lessons learnt, and propose a way forward for collective action by all stakeholders to reduce maternal and newborn deaths and achieve the MDGs.

Chair: WHO Representative, Kenya.

1. Global and regional situation, evidence, experiences and lessons learned
Dr Monir Islam, Director, MPS (Powerpoint presentation)
2. A way forward; making a investment plan for saving women and newborn lives
Dr Khama Rogo, World Bank (Powerpoint presentation)
3. Discussion
4. DVD presentation (1/2 h) on maternal and newborn health in Uganda or Malawi
(DVD player needed)