



NIGERIA EXPERIENCE IN PREVENTING MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE: THE ROLE OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

BY

SANJO FANIRAN, PH. D.

PARTNER COUNTRY COORDINATOR, NIGERIA

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE, BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLANNING,
ABUJA, NIGERIA**

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Background

- ❖ Nigeria which is the largest country in Africa has an estimated population of 214,426,654 as projected from 2006 census figure with annual growth rate of 3.2% as released by the National Population Commission , Nigeria
- ❖ Maternal Mortality Ratio in Nigeria is 576/100,000 live births (DHS 2018).
- ❖ Nigeria is determined to meet SDGs target of less than 70 maternal death per 100,000 live births by 2030 as a consolidation of the gains of the MDGs strategic achievements.

Concept of Maternal Mortality

- ❖ Maternal mortality according to World Health Organization is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accident or incidental issues.
- ❖ Some of the factors contributing to these numbers include; education, culture and lack of access to healthcare and skilled health workers.
- ❖ There are other factors which may also depend on variables such as, place of residence whether rural or urban area, socio-economic status and geo-political zone.

Trajectory of Maternal Mortality Decline in Nigeria

- ❖ Nigeria's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) decreased between 1990 and 2013. Nigeria has one of the highest rates of decline in maternal mortality among African nations from 1,500 per 100,000 live births in 1999 to 576 per 100,000 live births in 2013 which is a reduction of 3.3 per cent.
- ❖ To address the high maternal mortality rates, the Federal Ministry of Health in July 2017 inaugurated a 34-member Task Force to accelerate reduction of maternal mortality in Nigeria.
- ❖ The gains made in Nigeria since then are quite promising.
- ❖ This was to address unacceptable high maternal mortality in Nigeria, ranking among the highest in the world with the slow rate of reducing these deaths as many of the contributory factors remain unaddressed
- ❖ The Federal Ministry of Health in 2017 therefore reestablished commitment to bringing it to an end with the inauguration of the Task Force.

Causes of maternal deaths in Nigeria

- ❖ The most common cause of maternal death in Nigeria is heavy bleeding following delivery (hemorrhage) which accounts for 23% of all maternal deaths.
- ❖ Infections following childbirth (sepsis) was put at 17%.
- ❖ Basically, the following are the causes of maternal deaths in Nigeria:
 - ▶ Unsafe abortion
 - ▶ Toxemia/eclampsia
 - ▶ Malaria
 - ▶ Obstructed labour
 - ▶ Anemia
 - ▶ hypertension
 - ▶ Other causes

Combined efforts and partnership to curb maternal mortality in Nigeria

- ❖ In Nigeria, World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners are supporting government to develop and adapt various guidelines and policies on reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health.
- ❖ Records indicate that between 2000 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate in Nigeria reduced from 1,170 deaths to 814 deaths per 100,000 live births (30.4% decrease).
- ❖ WHO with support from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is providing technical support for implementation of policies and guidelines in selected states.

Combined efforts and partnership Cont'd.

- ❖ WHO is supporting the Federal Capital Territory, Sokoto and Kebbi states as well as the Federal Government through the Quality, Equity and Dignity (QED) network for coordination and monitoring implementation in Nigeria.
- ❖ There is also in the pipeline, a maternal and newborn Quality of Care (QOC) initiative to be supported by partners (led by WHO & UNICEF) which will focus on instituting quality improvement in selected health facilities towards ensuring positive pregnancy and birth experience for women.

Current Efforts by the Government of Nigeria to address Maternal Mortality

- i. Increase in Antenatal care (ANC) from a skill provider put at 57% with a visits of 4 or more during pregnancy
- ii. Increase in health facility birth delivery at 39%
- iii. 43% of the births delivery were delivered by a skill provider
- iv. Increase in post-natal care for mothers currently at 42 percent
- v. Skilled birth attendance increased from 31% in 1990 to 43% in 2018.
- vi. Skilled ante-natal care increased from 57% in 1990 to 67% in 2018(2018 NDHS)
- vii. Prevention and treatment of malaria among pregnant women by promoting use of ITNs
- viii. Midwife Service Scheme in some state like Cross River state
- ix. National Health Insurance Scheme and Integrated Maternal Neonatal and Child Health (IMNCH)

South-South cooperation as a tool to addressing Maternal Mortality in Nigeria and other African and Caribbean Countries

- ❖ The Government of Nigeria aligned with the principles and tenet of south-south cooperation as a catalyst for promoting healthcare delivery particularly reproductive health and maternal mortality.
- ❖ The following strategic approach has been adopted for driving South-South cooperation in Nigeria :
 - a. The country has specific agency known as Technical Aid Corps (TAC) which is an appendage of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs that work collaboratively with all relevant sectors including the Federal Ministry of Health to deploy human resources to other brother African countries as a south-south cooperation initiative in the area of reproductive health in support of reduction in maternal mortality.

South South Cooperation Efforts Cont'd

- b. Technical Aid Corps (**TAC**) is an enabler of South-South cooperation through which Nigeria has been providing expertise support to many African and Caribbean countries for many years.
- c. Under the coordination of TAC focusing South-South Cooperation, about 15 Medical Doctors were deployed to Sieraleone by the Government of Nigeria under the coordination of the Technical Aid Corps.
- d. The Government of Nigeria also recognize South-South cooperation as a strategic approach to have a wider coverage of reproductive healthcare delivery across all relevant sectors.

South South Cooperation Efforts Cont'd

- e. With this Nigeria as a member country of Partners in Population and Development inaugurated a National Taskforce of relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) to cascade the annual outcome of the PPD Inter-ministerial Conference and Board resolutions to relevant sectors for implementation that enables Nigeria ensure the achievement of PPD objectives in member countries.
- f. The Ministry of Budget and National Planning which is the Secretariat of South-South cooperation in Nigeria has also inaugurated an inter-ministerial committee of all relevant MDAs on South-South cooperation to explore every available opportunities in South-South cooperation for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with emphasis on reducing Maternal Healthcare delivery in Nigeria.

SouthSouth Cooperation Efforts Cont'd

- g. Nigeria also has critical MDAs including Finance, Budget and National Planning and Foreign Affairs as steering Committee on South-South cooperation to address critical vital issues that may affect effective utilization of south-south cooperation to support programme and project implementation in Nigeria in Nigeria including membership commitment to South-South cooperation within and outside the country.
- h. Nigeria is member of the South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (SSN4PSI) as a strategic approach for improving civil service focusing on experience sharing and capacity building.
- i. Government of Nigeria is ready to partner with PPD and Government of China on community clinics in selected states to improve facilities that addresses maternal mortality and improve reproductive health in Nigeria and will also appreciate support to center of excellence in the National Population commission of Nigeria.

Thank you
... for listening

