

Brief on World Bank Project

Title:

Raising Voices from the South for Integration of a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to Maternal Health

Objectives:

1. Initiate and promote a multi-stakeholder participatory process for the integration of HRBA into Maternal Health in line with commitments made through the international treaties ratified and consensus documents signed
2. Advocate for increased resources for maternal health at the national and international levels

Countries: Bangladesh, Uganda and Senegal

Donor: World Bank

Budget: USD 39, 315

Timeline: April 2011 to December 2012

Background:

While a worldwide significant drop in maternal mortality has been reported, it has been also recognized that of all the MDGs, progress towards achieving the MDG 5 is lagging far behind. However, according to the 'Countdown to 2015' report, achieving MDGs 5 is possible, but only a dramatic acceleration of political commitment and financial investment can make it happen. This political commitment exists through all pledges made by the world leaders and governments, but its implementation seems to be held by the “5th delay” described as: “the political delay by government and donors in effectively addressing the issue of maternal mortality”.

Through this project, PPD aims to enhance capacity of relevant government officials and key stakeholders in maternal health to improve their policies and programs, and make them more equitable and supportive for women and girls especially the most vulnerable. It is also expected that the project helps countries to establish effective mechanism of accountability, non discrimination, partnership building for the prevention of unacceptably needless maternal deaths and injuries accounted each year.

In each implementing country, Partner Country Coordinators will coordinate the project in partnership with the existing National Task Forces (NTFs) and Partner Institutes.

Activities:

1. Conduct a situation analysis by reviewing the relevant international treaties (CEDAW, ICESCR, CRC etc.), government commitments, status of interventions made, gaps in implementations and status of maternal health from the context of human rights based approach
2. Hold at least two consultative meetings between different stakeholders to create synergy around Human Rights and Maternal Health in each country

3. Organize a national forum for sharing and dissemination of actions taken for effective integration of Human Rights into Maternal Health policies in each country
4. Carryout a six months advocacy media campaign on “invest on maternal health and rights”

Outcomes:

1. Strengthened knowledge and capacity of stakeholders to effectively fulfil their human rights obligations and of right holders to know and claim their human rights especially in the context of maternal health
2. Strengthened alliances and partnerships among different stakeholders of maternal mortality (for ex. Health, Finance, Human Rights, women’s groups etc.) and initiation of integration of HRBA into maternal health plan
3. Increased funding and long term investment for maternal health