



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

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**Presentation to the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa on
Women and Health, held 13 January 2010 in Dakar, Senegal.**





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:**
 - Ø **adopt the practice, use as part of comprehensive workforce**
 - Ø **design supportive policies, and**
 - Ø **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.**

