

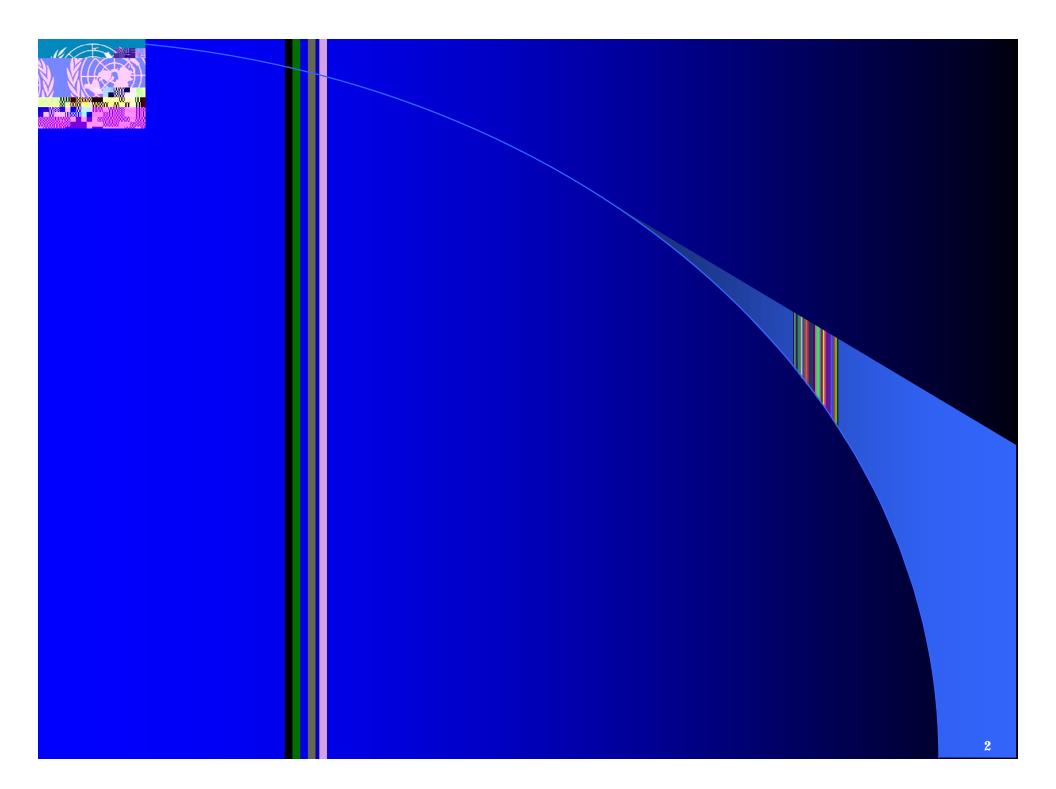
## Leading initiative: Health Systems Strengthening for Equity: The Potential of Mid-Level Health Providers/Non physicians clinicians

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## II. INNOVATION: Training of nonclinician 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,
- Ø Less cost of training,
- **Ø** Less cost of deployment and remuneration,
- Ø 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**
  - **Ø** design supportive policies, and
  - **Output** 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.

