

UNFPA's Strategic Response to Improve Maternal Health

UNFPA focuses on three major programme strategies to prevent maternal mortality and morbidity. These strategies are most effective when implemented as a package. The strategies are:

The strategies are:

- Family Planning
- Skilled attendance at birth
- Emergency obstetric care

The shortage and poor distribution of professionally trained and skilled attendant at birth is a major problem in most of the countries. UNFPA is seeking to address this problem of shortage and distribution of skilled attendance at birth by promoting more training of professionals and by seeking innovative ways to retain them in the regions in greatest need.

**"THE WORLD MUST
SAVE WOMEN SO THAT
WOMEN CAN SAVE THE WORLD."**

Thoraya Obaid
Executive Director, UNFPA

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Regional Workshop on Skilled Birth Attendants in South and West Asia

19 - 21 April 2004
Islamabad, Pakistan

**Saving mothers'
lives...
...the challenge
continues**



UNFPA COUNTRY TECHNICAL SERVICES TEAM FOR
SOUTH AND WEST ASIA (CST FOR SAWA)
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

in collaboration with

UNFPA PAKISTAN OFFICE

and

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

“No matter where a woman lives, giving birth should be a time of joy not a sentence to death.”

THORAYA A. OBAID
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNFPA

Current Situation of Maternal Health in South-West Asia

Countries	MMR	% Birth with Skilled Attendants
Afghanistan	1276	NA
Bangladesh	377	13
Bhutan	488	15
India	540	42
Iran	76	86
Maldives	153	90
Nepal	905	12
Pakistan	476	20
Sri Lanka	92	94

Source: State of the World Population 2003
NA: Not available

The statistics above clearly show the association between the low level of skilled attendance at birth in most countries of South and West Asia and the continuing high level of maternal mortality. One of the major problems in the countries of the region is the availability of professionally trained skilled birth attendants. The issue has prompted UNFPA CST for SAWA to hold a workshop to develop strategies to increase the availability of skilled birth attendants.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- 1 Develop a common understanding of the definition of the skilled birth attendant.
- 2 Develop a strategy to increase the access to skilled birth attendants through training of existing potential cadres or new cadres, changes in regulations and policies and human resource development policies. The strategy will focus on domiciliary as well as institutional deliveries.
- 3 Develop plans to strengthen the partnership between unskilled birth attendants and skilled birth attendants to further increase the access to skilled care.
- 4 Identify health systems interventions to improve the access to the skilled birth attendance.

EXPECTED OUTPUT

Country specific strategies to increase the availability of skilled birth attendants and the enabling environment to provide skilled care

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAMME

- Situational analysis with regard to availability of skilled birth attendants in SAWA countries.
- Strategies for increasing access to skilled birth attendants in institutions with special focus on rural/tribal areas.
- Strategies for increasing access to skilled birth attendants during home deliveries.
- Strategies for increasing partnership between unskilled and skilled birth attendants, for increasing institutional deliveries and supervision.
- Strategies for improving health systems for improved access to skilled attendance at delivery.

PARTNERS

UNFPA Country Office, Governments and Nursing Councils of the Region.