Stop Mothers Dying!

Collaborative Action in Lowering Maternity Encountered Deaths

Vocational Training Team - Bhuj, 2014
Reduction of Maternal and Child mortality through avoidance of preventable maternal and child deaths is an important area of focus of Rotary International. The calmed model is a new approach to an old problem which has evolved over 3 years, following discussions and guidance from many individuals representing the Professions, Rotary and the Government. It aims at empowering the community and the professions to take collaborative action in partnership with the Government. So what is the calmed solution?

Collaborative Action in Lowering Maternity Encountered Deaths: this second project is also developed on evidence based components, and is a collaboration between Rotary District 1120 in the UK and District 3051 together with Inner Wheel groups in India, Government Departments of Maternal and Family Health, National Health Mission, Professional Bodies (FIGO & FOGSI), Medical Institutions, Universities and Local Community Groups. We offer our sincere thanks to them.

The Rotary Vocational Training Team (VTT) of 6 Obstetricians from England will train medical staff in India, using the ‘Train the Trainer‘ model, training manuals, videos and manikins, to reinforce up-to-date training methods and fast track skills transfer.

They will train the first group of Professionals to become ‘Master Trainers’, who in turn will continue the work in partnership with the visiting VTT Obstetricians, and subsequent to their departure will train other basic Medical Staff and Nurses in obstetric emergencies, cascading and spreading the acquired skills and knowledge throughout the target area. This evidence based project offers long term sustainability and capacity building.

Another component of calmed is community mobilisation through raising awareness by ASHA workers, on issues related to childbirth, family spacing and women’s health. Monitoring and data collection will incorporate Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR). Rotarians’ advocacy role and partnership with the Government will ensure adequacy of resources including manpower.

Our vision is to achieve a sustainable solution – the establishment of permanent Skills Development Centres, offering more than a Skills Lab. These should be supported by the Government, staffed by Master Trainers, resourced with modern training materials, simulators, videos, with spaces and equipment for lectures, workshops, research and development. An academic accreditation will ensure ongoing development of the programme and training opportunities for future professionals from other areas and regions.

As Rotarians we are all excited about this innovative programme which offers a solution to Millennium Development Goal (MDG5 and SDGs), a major focus for Rotary International. We are grateful to a number of organisations, including our collaborators FIGO, FOGSI, GLOWM, Laerdal Global Health, Medical Aid Films (MAF) and AYZF, Rotary Foundation, RFPD and IFRD. In particular we express our gratitude to Prof Sir S Arulkumaran, Prof Hamid Rushwan, Mr David Bloomer and members of the calmed Vocational Training Team, who are all volunteers.

Rotarian PDG Dr Himansu Basu, MBBS FRCS FRCOG PhD
Programme Director, calmed - November, 2014
Preparatory Programme

An initial fact finding Rotary team travelled to Gangtok (Sikkim) in 2012, visiting villages, clinics, hospitals and medical colleges to consider ways of reducing the number of preventable deaths. Following meetings with Rotarians, Inner Wheel, Medical Professionals, Community Groups, Universities and Teaching Hospitals, and Government Officials, a comprehensive plan for collaborative action was drawn up.

VTT 1: Sikkim

Our first VTT visited Sikkim in 2013 - the area with the highest number of maternal deaths. Using simulators, manikins, manuals and a full training programme they had devised with the help of our collaborators, the Team transferred their skills to local medical professionals who in turn cascaded their knowledge across all levels of the community. Follow up analysis shows a substantial drop in maternal deaths (though not exclusively due to the VTT visit), and Rotary decided to extend the project to further VTT team visits in other areas of great need.

VTT 2: Bhuj

A second VTT will visit Bhuj (Gujarat) in November 2014, which will be followed by Madhya Pradesh in 2015. Each VTT visit is customised to the specific needs of the local area with the active help of team members, thus ensuring local ownership and sustainability. A thorough Maternal Mortality Review including verbal autopsy, is in place to assess the proportion of deaths due to the three delay model.

The strength of the VTT initiative lies not only in the transfer of knowledge and skills to the local medical professionals. Equally important is the promotion of the calmed message to nurses and midwives, and local groups in the community who will take the message into the towns and villages where it is needed most. We recognize the very important contribution of government and local groups to make this happen.

Follow On Action

Team members will keep in communication with the Bhuj ‘Master Trainers’ and support their work as mentors. Regular contact will assist data collection, monitoring and evaluation including MDSR activities. Ongoing work by local teams and calmed group will also include preparations for an appropriate Skills Development Centre. The Programme Director will arrange follow up visits after 12 / 24 months. The Teams will also promote the concept through future meetings, workshops, conferences and conventions. Both Programme Committees will be responsible for reporting to Rotary Foundation and other bodies.
Messages of Support

Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, President - FIGO
Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, St George’s University of London

On behalf of the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (FIGO) I would like to congratulate and thank Dr Himansu Basu for initiating the calmed model. Also the Rotarians from both UK and India, and master trainers and local collaborators from India for their enormous effort in implementing the calmed model to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality in India.

The collaboration of the Health sector from the Regional Governments, Universities, Professional societies together with Rotary is a major step towards recognition of the problem and the value of the model for taking concrete actions that are sustainable and reproducible.

The vision and mission of the model tackles the issues that need to be addressed from community to Government level. The calmed Team will impart knowledge and skills that are essential for saving lives through direct interaction, teaching material, mannequins, the global library of women’s medicine (GLOWM). Giving every participant continued access to knowledge and skills training with such collaborative support should make the calmed model a success.

My best wishes to Dr Himansu Basu and his team for the sacrifice of their time, and Rotary for their support to implement the calmed program that should benefit our mothers and new born.

Dr Gyaneshwar Rao  IPDG, Rotary District 3051 (Gujarat)

The calmed approach is really making a meaningful contribution to reduce Maternal Mortality in a country like India, through its unique feature of COLLABORATIVE efforts. Its structured program integrated with other existing activities will get maximum output: calmed will always be a program to be reckoned with.

In this first year of Rotary’s Future Vision, Rotary District 3051 looks forward to this exciting result oriented program being implemented and cascading across our community over the next three years.

David Bloomer, GLOWM

I would like to express my support and best wishes to the calmed Vocational Training Team going to Bhuj, Gujarat, in November 2014. I know that you will be undertaking a very worthwhile and important mission – and The Global Library of Women’s Medicine is very proud to be associated with you.

Good and effective training will help to save many women’s lives both now and in the future and we are delighted to have the opportunity of supporting your work by providing some practical resources that we hope you will find useful.

Martin Williams District Governor, Rotary District 1120 (South East UK)

Please accept my best wishes for a successful VTT trip to India. Rotary District 1120 is very proud of this project and we hope the Bhuj visit will prove as beneficial as the one to Sikkim last year.
**Dr Himansu Basu**  
MBBS FRCS FRCOG PhD  
Programme Director, calmed

Himansu, a Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist in Kent for many years, was involved in teaching, training and examining at local, national and international levels. He has held executive positions and examinerships in a number of national medical organisations, including the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Royal Society of Medicine and the General Medical Council.

In Rotary, he was District Governor for RI District 1120 in 2004-5, RIBI International Committee Chairman, RI President’s Representative, and Founder International Chairman of Rotarian Doctors Fellowship.

He is Medical Director of Rotarian Action Group on Population Development and Technical Advisor to Rotary Foundation on Maternal and Child Health. He is the recipient of the Rotary International ‘Service Above Self’ award. His basic research work and PHD on Maternal Health received a number of awards from his Royal College and the British Medical Association.

He is proud of his pioneering collaborative work in the evolution of the calmed model. He believes that credit must go to the professionalism and enthusiasm of the collaborators.

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**Dr Rachna Dwivedi**  
MBBS DGO MRCOG FICOG Dip( Ultrasound)

Rachna is a consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospital., where her special interest is in early pregnancy complications and Oncology. She is passionate about teaching and training, both locally regionally and globally. She is a Faculty Trainer for Ultrasound in Bournemouth University and an examiner for Southampton University medical students.

Having an interest in improving maternal health globally, she has actively participated in providing essential Obstetric Care for the developing Countries. She works voluntarily with LSTM (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine). She is a Database Co-ordinator for the RCOG Indian Liaison Group, working actively to improve and co-ordinate rural projects in India. She feels privileged to have the opportunity to work with Rotary International and to deliver the VTT programme, working on principles of training and empowering the local community to reduce maternal mortality at Gujarat.
Dr Santanu Acharya  
MBBS MD MRCOG MSc FICOG

Santanu is a Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Person Responsible for the Ayrshire Fertility Unit, University Hospital Crosshouse, Scotland. His special interest is subfertility and he works as a consultant in reproductive medicine at Glasgow Centre for Reproductive Medicine.

He currently serves in the MRCOG Examination and also Assessment subcommittees of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists. He is a panel member for the Fitness to Practice panel of the General Medical Council. He is actively involved in teaching and training as Honorary Senior Lecturer, Medical School, University of Glasgow. He is an examiner, trainer and faculty for MRCOG, MBChB courses and examinations both at national and international levels.

He has published widely and also regularly acts as reviewer for many international journals. His passion is to make a difference in the lives of underprivileged mothers around the world. He believes that serving as a VTT team member in this project will give him the opportunity to serve the mothers and children in the country where he was born and raised, giving back something to the society that has enabled him to pursue a career in medicine.

Dr Prabha Sinha  
DGO, MRCPI, FRCOG, Dip Mgmt, DipMed Ed

Prabha has been a Consultant obstetrician and Gynaecologist for 20 years and is based at Conquest Hospital, East Sussex. Whilst maintaining a broad experience her special interest is in teaching, training and clinical research.

She has participated in ORACLE and CLASP trials and is coordinator for the Caesar Study, and currently reports cases to UKOSS. She has been a local lead (data) for RCOG National Heavy Menstruation Audit which has been published recently. She is a part 2 MRCOG examiner for more than 10 years and preceptor for the RCOG advanced Education module.

She has served on the RCOG/RCR committee, Part 2 MRCOG Course facilitator, Training the Trainers and Medical Graduate Induction for RCOG and GMC panel member for 6 years and PLAB part 2 examiner for more than 9 years. She represents RCOG on the consultant appointment committee and interviewer / examiner for medical school admission and final MBBS examiner for GKT and Brighton medical school.

She has authored many books, published widely and reviewer of many journals. She has been invited speaker in many international conferences.
Francis Hodge  
Rotarian Past President, Hailsham Club

Francis is an experienced Rotarian and Past President of the Rotary Club of Hailsham in East Sussex. He is supporting his medical colleagues to enable them to fulfill the Team objectives.

He has been working in the field of public relations for many years, and is passionate about publicising Rotary programmes. He believes strongly in the power of professional ‘hands-on’ efforts and advocacy which the CALMED project embodies. He is looking forward to maximising press, broadcast and social media reports on its progress.

Francis has already visited Bhuj and Ahmedabad within District 3051 (Gujarat), and is familiar with the strength of the partnership between our two Districts – 1120 (SE England), and 3051. He is looking forward to the challenges of promoting this Rotary programme worldwide.

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Mr Sameer A Umranikar  
MBBS, MD, DNB, FRCOG, FICOG, MSc

Sameer is a Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University Hospital Southampton. He is the Simulation lead for the Wessex Deanery and a Senior Council Member of the British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy. He is also the Secretary of the RCOG India Liaison Group. He undertakes regular teaching sessions and is developing a simulation skills lab.

He is a firm and passionate believer in improving the health of women and their children, a keen teacher, and a believer in teaching and transferring his skills to other health care professionals. He feels it is his duty to improve the lives of many women who are still very underprivileged and suffer due to lack of medical aid. He strongly believes that all women should have access to good healthcare, and his role in the VTT group is to support this goal. He has extensive experience in teaching and developing the skills of other allied healthcare professionals.

He firmly believes that all women should be given equal opportunities, and using his training skills hopes he can make a difference to these women across the globe.

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Dr Nutan Mishra  
MBBS, MD, FRCOG

Nutan is a Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology for the last 5 years. Her main interest is high risk pregnancy - particularly pre-eclampsia, and growth restriction in fetuses and diabetes.

She is actively involved in teaching and training. She currently coordinates the placement of Oxford medical students and is educational supervisor for trainees. She is a facilitator for basic surgical course, MRCOG OCSE course, Life Saving skills and CTG training. She has written book chapters on Postpartum haemorrhage and Rupture uterus.

She is very passionate about antenatal care and childbirth. Having worked in both India and the UK she is familiar with the challenges both developing and developed countries face. For the last two years she has volunteered to facilitate the course on Basic Emergency Obstetric care and Newborn care.

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Our Collaborators

Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development

National Health Mission

Glōwm

FIGO

Rotary International Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors

Laerdal

Medical Aid Films