

Rotary Vocational Service in Action -an evidence-based, achievable, partnership strategy accelerating towards zero preventable maternal and child deaths

“We need to grow Rotary. We need more hands doing service, more brains coming up with ideas. We need more partnerships, more connections. ...I want to focus on Rotary's relationship with the United Nations.”.... Mark Maloney (The Rotarian, March 2019, P 45)

1.Executive Summary –

- 1a.** Calmed is an innovative Rotary maternal & new-born mortality reduction initiative in low resource settings, **centred on countering medical, social and public health issues responsible for maternal and child deaths linked with the “three delay model”**. It is a woman centred approach enhancing fast track transfer of pregnant woman requiring emergency care from the community to the hospital/institution.
- 1b.** **It works by creating /empowering a cohort of local master trainers**, who rely on a training the trainer model to increase the number of skilled professionals, enhancing community awareness of childbirth related issues in support of care providers – a truly high impact sustainable programme.
- 1c.** Pilot programmes based on Rotarian led vocational training, return visits, advocacy and funded by Rotary Foundation Global Grants, had produced validated successful outcomes (road maps to zero preventable maternal & perinatal deaths) in target areas in India (Rotary Districts 3054 ,3240).
- 1d.** As legacies, details of planning, implementation and monitoring/evaluation matrices are available to those seeking these for supporting future Master Trainers and scaling up programmes.
- 1e.** Vocational Training Team members provided mentoring and advocacy support to the professionals they trained. This has been described as a “life changing experience” by Rotarian and non-Rotarian participants of Calmed vocational training programmes (*potential for membership growth*)
- 1f.** Rotarians (Clubs or Districts), non-Rotarians, Governments and NGOs can support and participate by donating time as volunteer experts (VTT Faculty), by donating DDF or cash, advocacy initiatives or by joining the strategic team for programme development and scaling up (Rotarian Vocational Alliance for Saving Mothers and Babies)- please visit www.calmedrotary.org.

2. Background - Global Polio Eradication (GPEI) remains every Rotarian’s top priority. However, every day over 800 women and 8,000 babies die at childbirth – majority are preventable. We can act. Calmed Pilot had been built on Post-Polio Legacy framework of partnership and community outreach, in alignment with Rotary’s Strategic Vision .



3.What is Calmed? –stands for Collaborative Action in Lowering of Maternity Encountered Deaths.

3.1 Programme strategy and components are evidence-based multi-sectoral actions, to reduce maternal, new born mortalities/morbidities and enable communities to satisfy unmet needs of contraception, in alignment with **SDG 3 goals and zero preventable maternal mortality in some target areas.**

3.2 It has 5 possible components built on vocational service/training, and partnership— *all or some can be implemented based on local needs and ability.* The components are

- a. **needs and priorities assessment** – by communities, Rotary, Government, NGOs.
- b. **top down (training the trainer model), using modern simulation techniques, enhanced WHO Basic Emergency Obstetric New Born Care (BEmONC)** for updating practical skill of relevant professionals (doctors, nurses, and others) through a training the trainer model. Two return visits (18 and 26 months later) and retraining by local “master trainers” ensure long term benefits.
- c. **bottom up (enhanced community awareness of pregnancy, family spacing and child birth related matters)** approach, working in partnership with the Government, and communities.
- d. **Maternity Emergency Response Network (M.E.R.N.)** for urgent resuscitation at the community and fast track transfer of sick women and babies to best available care.
- e. **MPDSR (Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response) - quality assurance for improved infrastructure and governance, resulting from review of all maternal & child deaths.** We work on WHO guidelines, with Governments for implementation of achievable realistic corrective actions covering human resources, infrastructure and governance, especially in support of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). **A local Rotary Community partnership** works with Government and Health care providers, for Obstetric Quality Assurance (OQA) ensuring governance and long-term benefit to the communities.

4. Who are we? – we are a group (Rotarian Vocational Alliance for Saving Mothers and Babies) of Rotarians, academics, professionals, administrators and volunteers, all with a common interest in achieving measurable sustainable reduction of preventable maternal and child deaths.

5. What has happened so far? – successful outcome of Pilots

5.1 Calmed had been implemented through Rotary Foundation Global Grants GG 1326259 & 1413592 (2013 to 2017) in two states of India, Sikkim (D 3240) and Gujarat(D 3054)- (Target Pop. 3.2 million) -

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5.2 Supported by Rotary Foundation Grants of \$ 100,000, resources from Collaborators including India Government, a training faculty of 11 senior doctors trained 39 expert trainers who passed Master Trainers’ standard (knowledge /skills). They in turn, trained 165 health care professionals and over 200 community workers (ASHAs)-covering six visits of faculty and some smaller programmes by master trainers.



Vocational Training Faculty and Master Trainers- Gujarat

5.3 Three years follow up (direct observation and modelled estimate based on state government of India data) showed saving of 250 mothers and 1250 babies.

5.4 Legacies left behind after the programme included resources for monitoring, evaluation, training, simulators, videos, digital media (stored in tablets, phones and computers) and a cadre of trained motivated professionals supported by telemedicine and/or mentoring network. These are being updated in collaboration with University Hospital of Geneva (HUG) and Geneva Rotary Health Initiative.

6. Why is Calmed important? It sets new standards in high impact Rotary Foundation Programme in maternal and child health area of focus through vocational empowerment and partnership. The programme

6.1 Strategy is multi-sectoral, in **alignment with RI strategic vision** incorporating not only funding, but also partnership, vocational expertise and vocational efforts of professionals – all are valuable resources.

6.2 Impact is enhanced by **collaboration, internal** -Clubs, Districts, Action Groups and Fellowships (RFPD, Rotarian Doctors Fellowship) **and external** (Government, NGOs, Academics) Rotary partnership.

6.3 Components are **evidence based**.

6.4 Pilot had shown validated sustainable improvement in maternal and child mortality rates, coupled with measurable skills enhancement, enhanced community awareness and important behavioural changes.

6.5 Had generated life changing experiences for faculty, master trainers and trainees through return visits and mentoring - **created potential for Rotary leadership and new membership**.

6.6 Had **generated legacies for future projects** (training materials, partnership/collaboration, monitoring, evaluation, mentoring support) now freely available for future use– Para 5.4.

6.7 Is **capable of adaptation and merging** (dove-tailing) with contemporary in-country initiatives- we have experience of successful collaboration with existing Government programmes.

6.8 Had **received recognition** - Rotary GBI Champion of Change award (2016) and London Times - Sternberg award (2016). Eight faculty members received individual PHF recognition from Rotary Clubs.

7. Our Collaborators (logos are shown below)- Indian Government, Rotarian Action Group, Rotarian Doctors Fellowship, Global NGOs (GLOWM, MAF, Laerdal) continue to support our vocational efforts with resources, advocacy and guidance. The programme is validated by Rotarians through support from Geneva based **Rotary Representatives to the UN and Geneva Rotary Health Group- Para 9**



8. Looking to the Future -Maternal and Child Health Academy – supported by Academics, Professionals, Governments and other stake holders, when established, will be a global resource for future vocational training of professionals to an international standard, supporting quality control, initiating research and offering a long-term solution, through empowerment of communities and professionals involved in care of mothers and babies. ***This could be a platform for training future Rotary Global Scholars (akin to Peace Scholars).***

9. Geneva Rotary Health initiative – Rotary Representative and Deputy Representative to the UN, RC Geneva Internationale and University Hospital of Geneva have established a consultative collaboration with WHO for high impact MCH programme development and establishing a legacy document and best practice guide.

10. What can Rotarians, Clubs or Districts do? In alignment with Rotary International Strategic Vision ,2016. We must act together to bridge gaps in existing structure, process and governance in MCH care – this is a Road Map. In alignment with that vision, we seek your support for creating a road map of action through

10.1 Promotion and Publicity – the programme details and benefits can be shared in Rotary Institutes, Rotary Conferences, Training Programmes, Meetings, Magazines, Social media etc.

10.2 Implementing Global Grant Programmes -in target population areas of 1 to 3 million, Rotary Foundation Global Grants based on our existing Calmed model can be implemented by Clubs/Districts. Our legacy (**Para 5.4**) resources, advocacy and partnership for implementation are freely available. Rotarians can donate DDF and or cash for a Global Grant, and/or their time and expertise for supporting vocational training in MCH. Rotarians' support is important in creating a local M.E.R.N. structure for emergency resuscitation of sick mothers and babies- **Para 3.2.d**

10.3 Multi District /Country initiatives -for initiatives covering larger population, it is even more important to join existing in- country Government or NGO initiatives, with Rotary Vocational Service collaboration based on the Calmed template for local adaptation and implementation, supported by the Vocational Alliance /Country Forum.

10.4 Joining our international volunteer professional workforce (doctors, midwives, nurses, administrators and others) for taking leadership roles in Vocational Training in Maternal and Child Health Area (MCH) of focus (VTT Faculty roles, vocational Training Team).

10.5 Supporting our strategic alliance leadership team for programme development and quality improvement or join us as our **Country Champions** for implementing in- country programmes ,through the Country Forum.

Stop Mothers Dying!
www.calmedrotary.org

For further information and feedback, please contact us

PDG Dr. Himansu Basu, M.D., Ph.D.

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Calmed Founder and Programme Director

Rotary International Networking and Service Groups Committee (2017-20)

Rotary Foundation Cadre Technical Coordinator in Maternal and Child Health (2013-19)

Medical Director, Rotarian Action Group on Population Development (2011-)

Vocational Training Team (VTT) Leader (2013-)

Founder Chairman, International Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors (2002-2011)

Email - drhbasumd@gmail.com , calmedrotary@gmail.com

And all Vocational Team Members, Advisers and Supporters (Rotarian Vocational Alliance saving mothers and babies)