WHAT IS M.E.R.N.?

MATERNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK IS A RESOURCE FOR RESUSCITATION AND FAST TRACK TRANSFER OF MOTHERS AND BABIES FOR EMERGENCY CARE FROM COMMUNITIES TO HOSPITALS – REDUCES DELAY, SAVES LIVES


Resuscitation and Stabilisation of Mother/Child emergencies prior to low cost Ambulance Transfer and Tracking from remote areas to safety of hospitals – Ambulance, Consumables, Equipment and Training

1. Background – CALMED (Collaborative Actions in Lowering of Maternity Encountered Deaths) is a Rotarian initiated holistic, evidence-based programme for reducing avoidable maternal and newborn deaths in low resource settings. (www.calmedrotary.org)

2. Our challenge is for Rotary and partners to adopt the SDG 3 Goals – reduce maternal mortality further (70 or less per 100,000 maternities) and encourage equity in care -UHC (Universal Health Coverage) in a value for money concept. We wish to start in the remote areas, where access and mortalities are higher. We would wish to introduce low cost ambulance (E-ranger bike ambulance is based on a motor bike with a side car or similar - www.eranger.com), arrange basic resuscitation and tracking in emergencies before transfer to the safety of hospital care – this practice saves mothers and babies during transfer, and reduce delays after arrival at the hospital/facility - please see below.

3. M.E.R.N Concept – This is a validated resource for improving survival rates of mothers and newborns in emergency situations during transfer from distant communities – developed as a
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Component of the CALMED programme. It involves a red flag alert in obstetric and new born emergencies, which initiates tracking from communities to hospital department, to reduce delays.

Action Required – a road map to reduce delays in emergency care and for equitable health coverage.

1. Rotary Club/District Partnership with the Government, WHO Quality Care Network, publicity within and beyond Rotary
2. Business Plan – secure funding, partnership, stewardship – Rotary Foundation Global Grant
3. Piloting the programme – identify neediest areas, with resources able to implement
4. Production & assembly of E-Ranger Bike Ambulance or similar-if there is shortage of ambulance
5. Purchase & assembly of consumables and equipment
6. Training of Ambulance Crew, M.E.R.N. Care Manager, and basic health care workers
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7. Integration into CALMED and other existing models, as required.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Himansu Basu, on behalf of participants, collaborators and supporters of CALMED programme.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CALMED – Collaborative Action in Lowering of Maternity Encountered Deaths
MAST – Maternity Alliance for Structured Training (saving mothers and babies)
MCH – Maternal and Child Health
MERN – Maternity Emergency Response Network
RI – Rotary International
TRF – The Rotary Foundation
VTT – Vocational Training Team
WHO – World Health Organisation