



FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA POPULATION
UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

UNFPA – because everyone counts

03rd August 2007

PRESS RELEASE

ISSUE: ELABORATION OF REDUCE/ALIVE MODULE FOR CAMEROON

The Ministry of Public Health with the support of AWARE/USAID, UNFPA – Cameroon and other donors will be organising a workshop from the ***3rd to 12th September in Mbalmayo***. The official presentation of the end product of the workshop to Ministers, Policy makers, Donors and Stakeholders will take place on ***Thursday 13th September at the Hilton Hotel***.

The objective of the workshop titled **“ELABORATION OF REDUCE/ALIVE MODULE FOR CAMEROON”**, is to produce an advocacy tool which will be used to influence policy actions and identify strategies in the reduction of maternal mortality and increase newborn survival. This concrete step taken by the Ministry of health with the support key developmental partners like UNFPA will go a long way in raising the profile of women’s and newborn health in Cameroon.

The REDUCE/ALIVE advocacy tool will contain a persuasive script, specific advocacy messages and sound arguments which the Ministry will use to bring policy makers, donors and stakeholders alike to understand the political, economic and social benefits in assisting in the prioritisation of the prevention of maternal mortality and disability as well as increasing the survival chances of the newborn. REDUCE/ALIVE is a sensitisation instrument which will be used to persuade decision makers to mainstream maternal and newborn health into policies and strategies which support sustainable development. It is also a tool to be used as guide in soliciting and allocating resources.

This working session will bring together some 20 national champions of maternal, newborn health and related issues to work towards achieving a coherent set of goals outlined in the Roadmap for Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality 2006-2015; This roadmap advocates for;

- Speeding up the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality by 50% before 2010 and by 75% before 2015 (the later as agreed in the MDGs and ICPD Programme of Action)
- To make affordable and available quality maternal and neonatal care at all the levels of the system in 70% of health facilities by 2015 and
- To build the capacity of individuals, families and communities on the management of their health problems.

Meeting MDG 4 for child survival and MDG 5 for the promotion of women's sexual and reproductive health by making motherhood safer are core elements of the UNFPA mandate and will continue to be an important component of UNFPA's Strategic Plan for 2008-2011.

UNFPA's assistance to Cameroon in terms of the 4th Country Programme also draws inspiration from the Common Country Assessment (CCA), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Programme Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). These agreements seek to achieve;

- Universal access to reproductive health services by 2015
- Universal primary education and closing of the gender gap in education by 2015
- Reduce maternal mortality by 75% by 2015
- Reduce infant mortality
- Increase life expectancy
- Reduce HIV/AIDS infection rates by 25%

The 4th Country Programme which spans 2003 - 2007, is being executed in six out of the ten provinces namely: Littoral, Centre, East, Far-North, North and South. The assistance focuses on two major areas – Population and Development and Reproductive Health. The Sub-Programme on Reproductive Health which is lodged at the Ministry of Public Health seeks to offer high quality health services in 11 districts out of 170. Its principal outputs include;

- ❖ improving access to and availability of high-quality reproductive health services
- ❖ strengthening management of reproductive health service at all levels
- ❖ increasing demand for reproductive health services
- ❖ strengthening national capacity for quality emergency obstetrical care
- ❖ empowering the families/beneficiaries/the community to take responsibility for their own health
- ❖ ensuring efficiency in follow-up through a functional referral system
- ❖ rendering an affordable, sustainable and quality RH services amongst others.

REDUCE/ALIVE – reduce maternal mortality and keep newborns alive, is an advocacy module designed by the Academy for Education Development (AED) to raise awareness, influence policy actions and spotlight maternal and neonatal health. The REDUCE/ALIVE process uses interactive computer models coupled with international and national statistics to estimate the consequences of poor maternal health care such as;

- maternal and infantile deaths
- short and long term illnesses, traumas and disabilities as well as
- productivity

The ALIVE component ensures that measures are put in place so that;

- no baby should die at birth

- no baby should die 42 days after birth
- children are born in well equipped and staffed health facilities
- women receive adequate medical care before, during and after delivery to ensure that they give birth to healthy children

The REDUCE components examine health and obstetrical factors which contribute to maternal mortality, morbidity and disabilities such as;

- haemorrhage
- infections
- unsafe abortions
- pregnancy – related high blood pressure
- obstetrical labour
- malaria and
- anaemia

REDUCE/ALIVE provides a framework for discussion on the most appropriate intervention in any given situation. It does not compare the cost-effectiveness of different interventions nor does it seek to prioritise them. The choice is left for each country to determine the appropriate mix.

DEFINITIONS

Maternal mortality refers to any death that occurs during pregnancy, delivery or within 42 days following the end of pregnancy

Neonatal mortality refers to any child who dies before its first birthday

Infant mortality refers to a newborn who dies within 42 days of birth

UNFPA – because everyone counts

Contact:

Caroline Kilo Bara
 Programme Associate in charge of Communications
 P.O.Box 836 - Rond Point Bastos (Ekoudou)
 Yaounde - Cameroon
 Tél : (237) 22.21.98.63 /64
 Mobile: (237) 96.29.08.41
 Fax : (237) 222.1.98.62

UNFPA website address : <http://cameroon.unfpa.org>