Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality in Mali Project

Partners: The SOGC is implementing this project in collaboration with l’Unité de Recherche et de Formation en Santé de la Mère et de l’Enfant (URFOSAME). The project is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada.

Timeline: 3.5 year project (December 2012 – April 2016)

Location: Mali

Goal: The project aims to support Mali in their efforts to improve maternal and neonatal health by strengthening the availability and access of a package of Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care services in 22 health structures throughout the country and in at least 10 basic health facilities in Commune V, one of the sub regions of Bamako.

Description: Maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity rates remain high in Mali. Based on the last Health Demographic Survey (2006), the maternal mortality rate is estimated at 464 per 100,000 live births and the neonatal mortality rate at 46 per 1,000 births. The main barriers for improving maternal and neonatal health in Mali that have been identified are: insufficient human resources with the necessary qualifications; misdistribution of health professionals between geographic zones; and lack of training for personnel.

This project includes training in Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care, support for implementation of maternal death audits, as well as revising and updating related clinical guidelines. Furthermore, a pilot initiative will be conducted in selected primary health care facilities to improve capacities for management of post-partum hemorrhage, treating complications due to eclampsia, and provision of newborn care. Support will be given to the professional associations of ob/gyns and midwives in Mali to strengthen their leadership role as experts, supervisors and trainers in the field of maternal and newborn care.

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