

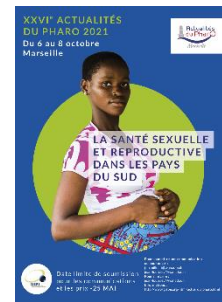
Actualités du Pharo 2021 – Session 5

Promoting delivery in accredited maternity hospitals to reduce maternal mortality in Mali

Keywords: maternal mortality, safe delivery, mothers' house, access to care

Hubert BALIQUE

hubertbalique@hotmail.com



For more than 50 years, considerable efforts have been made in the fight against maternal mortality. However, the results in sub-Saharan Africa, as shown by the 2015 MDG evaluation, are not commensurate with the multiplication of projects led by the States, often through the involvement of NGOs, nor with the amount of money mobilised by the international community, despite certain specific results. However, the protection of the lives of mothers and their children is still one of the major concerns of families, who have not identified in the actions undertaken the answers to their aspirations. Analysis of this situation leads to a particular emphasis on delivery in accredited maternity hospitals, which will require the control of the quality of care and the removal of any financial barrier to access to care for users.

In rural areas, these two measures should be complemented by the effective presence of women in the vicinity of the maternity hospital before the onset of labour in order to reduce risks, immediately detect the occurrence of problems and intervene with the required efficiency, whether locally or after referral. In this perspective, the creation and appropriate management of mothers' houses managed by a local women's association should be promoted, provided that the maternity hospital meets the required quality criteria and that the cost of care is in line with the financial capacities of all families, including the most disadvantaged. This measure will require a strong involvement of women, with the support of their husbands, both to obtain the adhesion of families and to manage the reception of women during the period before delivery. The success of such a strategic option requires (i) a strong commitment from the Minister of Health, (ii) a deverticalization of the fight against maternal mortality and its insertion in a national programme to strengthen the health system, (iii) a movement of health professionals, in particular doctors and midwives, towards rural areas and peri-urban neighbourhoods, (iv) the implementation of a results-based financing mechanism, allowing in particular the balancing of the accounts of each health structure, whatever its geographical location. The Maison des Mamans de Boni in Mali demonstrates the technical feasibility and results of this new strategic approach in one of the country's most disadvantaged areas.