

FIGO Africa Meeting 2-5 October 2013, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)



RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE: AN OVERVIEW

Panel - Respectful Maternity Care: A dimension
of quality Maternal and Newborn Health

Thursday, 3 October, 8:00-9:30

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General Session Objectives



- To introduce general concept and information related to Respectful Maternity Care (RMC).
- To share the results of a survey conducted by MCHIP about key countries experience in this area.

Respectful Maternity Care: General Concept

RMC is an approach that:

- Focuses on the interpersonal aspect of maternity care
- Emphasizes the fundamental rights of the mother, newborn and families
- Respects the autonomy and dignity of woman giving birth, engages her active participation and decision making
- Recognizes that all women need and deserve respectful care and protection of their rights.



Why is Respectful Maternity Care important?



- It can contribute to saving lives!
- Studies have shown that women refuse care from health providers that treat them poorly, even if these same providers are capable of preventing or managing obstetric or newborn complications (Access, 2008).
- Therefore, RMC can contribute to increase the utilization of maternal and newborn health services by women and their families.

Respectful Maternity Care Movement

- RMC, sometimes known as “Humanization of Childbirth”, is a movement advancing progressively in several countries.
- Some landmarks in this movement are:
 - The birth of the Humanizing Childbirth movement (Brazil 1975);
 - WHO conference on appropriate technology for birth (Brazil 1985);
 - the first International Conference on Humanizing Childbirth in Fortaleza (Brazil 2000);
 - USAID supported Landscape Analysis on abuse and disrespect in childbirth care (Bowser&Hill 2010);
 - the RMC charter (WRA 2011 – with support of MCHIP, TRAction and others).

Respectful Maternity Care Movement

- Organizations and networks supporting this movement:
 - WHO
 - JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency),
 - RELACAHUPAN (Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Humanization of Childbirth),
 - USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development),
 - Jhpiego-MCHIP (Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program),
 - WRA (White Ribbon Alliance) and TRAction
 - IMBCO (International MotherBaby Childbirth Organization)

Respectful Maternity Care: Focus on Dignity and Rights

- Respect for **women's** rights and preferences
- Appreciation, compensation and respect for **health care providers**
- Central involvement of women – **community** and national leaders – in planning and evaluating maternal health programs



Respectful Maternity Care Movement Promotes:

- Respect for beliefs, traditions and culture
- Empowerment of the woman and her family to become active participants in health care
- Continuity of care
- The right to information and privacy
- Good communication between client and provider
- Use of evidence-based practices



Respectful Maternity Care Movement Promotes (cont):

- Improvement of working conditions and respectful and collaborative relationships among all types of health workers
- Appropriate use of technology and effective lifesaving interventions
- Prevention of disrespect and abuse and institutional violence against woman



Respectful Maternity Care Chart

In seeking and receiving maternity care before, during and after childbirth:

1 EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
BE FREE FROM HARM AND ILL TREATMENT
NO ONE CAN PHYSICALLY ABUSE YOU

2 EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
INFORMATION, INFORMED CONSENT AND REFUSAL, AND RESPECT FOR HER CHOICES AND PREFERENCES, INCLUDING COMPANIONSHIP DURING MATERNITY CARE
NO ONE CAN FORCE YOU OR DO THINGS TO YOU WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT

3 EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY
NO ONE CAN EXPOSE YOU OR YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

4 EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT
NO ONE CAN HUMILIATE OR VERBALLY ABUSE YOU

All rights are grounded in established international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the Declaration of the Elimination of Violence Against Women; the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights; and the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing. National instruments are also referenced if they make specific mention of childbearing women.

Safe Motherhood is more than the prevention of death and disability...It is respect for every woman's humanity, feelings, choices, and preferences.

RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE: THE UNIVERSAL RIGHTS OF CHILDBEARING WOMEN



5 EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
EQUALITY, FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, AND EQUITABLE CARE
NO ONE CAN DISCRIMINATE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THEY DO NOT LIKE ABOUT YOU

6 EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
HEALTHCARE AND TO THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE LEVEL OF HEALTH
NO ONE CAN PREVENT YOU FROM GETTING THE MATERNITY CARE YOU NEED

7 EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
LIBERTY, AUTONOMY, SELF-DETERMINATION, AND FREEDOM FROM COERCION
NO ONE CAN DETAIN YOU OR YOUR BABY WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY

Disrespect and abuse during maternity care are a violation of women's basic human rights.



For more information visit:
www.whiteribbonalliance.org/respectfulcare

RMC country survey

- Conducted in 2012 by MCHIP with USAID support
- Based on the revision of key documents and application of questionnaires to 48 stakeholders from 19 countries (from 5 continents)
- Main findings include: A brief on programs/projects promoting RMC, interventions, main results, resources used, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations.
- **RMC Toolkit - <http://www.k4health.org/toolkits/rmc>.**

Survey Main Results

- There is some interest in promoting RMC in countries and various RMC interventions have been implemented.
- There are interesting tools available and some consistent results have been produced.



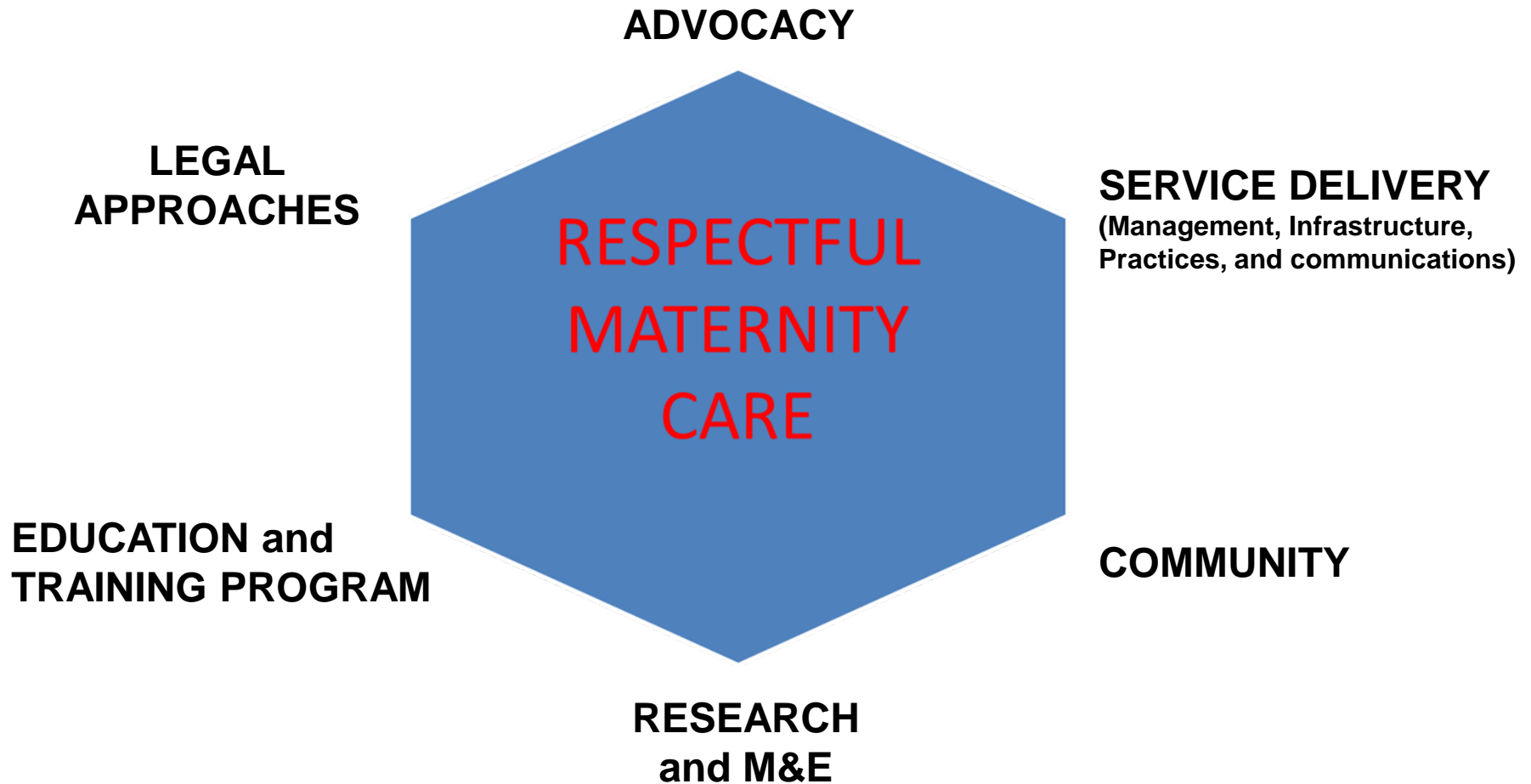
Key stakeholders at the *3rd International Conference on the Humanization of Childbirth* (Brazil – November 2010)

Survey Main Results

- Factors associated with disrespectful care are related to:
 - Policy and management;
 - Infrastructure, resources and work condition;
 - Knowledge, skills and health worker motivation;
 - Ethical, gender, economic and socio-cultural aspects;
 - Interpersonal relations and community factors.



Key action points – focus of strategies or interventions to promote RMC



Main Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- Include advocacy at all levels to promote RMC
- Ensure political commitment so that appropriate laws, policies and standards are in place.
- Mobilize resources to support promotion of RMC
- Professionals and communities should collaborate in planning, implementation, and evaluation of RMC.
- Conduct studies on women's preferences and choices.
- RMC must be promoted in all education and training programs for healthcare workers.
- Committed teams need to be valued and supported.
- It's necessary patience and creativity!

**WE ALL HAVE A ROLE IN ASSURING THAT ALL
WOMEN AND BABIES HAVE RMC!**



THANKS!