Maternal Mortality Rate

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Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is a major area of concern all over the world. Pakistan ranks third highest in the world with estimated number of 276 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. In Pakistan, 65% of births take place in homes; the proportion of births at home is much higher in rural areas, where risk of death due to obstetric complications remains much higher. Many strategies are applied to combat problems related to MMR, out of those the availability of skilled birth attendant at community level can play a key role in reducing maternal morbidity and mortality. A new cadre of skilled care providers including community midwives (CMWs) are trained and deployed in different rural areas of Pakistan to provide competent maternity care to women and their families. These CMWs undergo an 18 months training from a midwifery school that is recognized by Pakistan Nursing Council. The candidates for this training are selected intentionally from rural communities when there is lack of health care providers; so that these CMWs are prepared to provide services to those who are deprived of care. This strategy has made a difference in many rural areas of the country, where the CMWs are seen as independent practitioners responsible to provide maternity and child health care. As evidences are changing, therefore, it is important to provide refresher trainings to these CMWs, so that they have updated knowledge and skills. They have a broad vision focusing on community's health promotion and disease prevention, and early detection of problems, management and timely referral to the next level of care.

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