

Appealing Agency	UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Project Title	Safe-motherhood
Project Code	DPRK-04/H04
Sector	Health and Nutrition
Themes	Safe-Motherhood, Maternal Health
Objective	To improve the capacity of the basic health services to be able to manage life-threatening obstetric emergencies in two provinces / three pilot counties
Supporting CAP Objectives	Health and Nutrition Sector: Operational Objective Three
Targeted Beneficiaries	40,000 women of reproductive age in Kosan, Kowon, Jongpyong counties of South Hamgyong and Kangwon provinces
Implementing Partners	Ministry of Public Health, Provincial and County health authorities
Project Duration	January - December 2004
Funds Requested	US\$ 343,840

Project Outputs

- Maternal health / safe-motherhood.
- Standard training course (MoPH) on emergency obstetric care agreed (UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO collaboration).
- One maternal mortality reduction workshop organised at central level and overall national strategy reviewed (UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO collaboration).
- One national safe-motherhood manager / team (MoPH) appointed and trained in maternal mortality reduction approaches (UNFPA-UNICEF collaboration).
- One central training team (MoPH/Pyongyang maternity) set up to train in the maternal mortality reduction strategies, management of obstetric emergencies and (UNFPA-UNICEF collaboration).
- Two provincial maternity hospitals (Kangwon and South Hamgyong) upgraded and equipped to perform surgery, safe blood transfusion (WHO).
- Twenty staff of the same two maternity hospitals trained in safe delivery / to manage obstetric emergencies.
- Two provincial training teams of the same two maternity hospitals equipped with knowledge and skills to be able to serve as training grounds for their province.
- Three county hospitals (Kosan / Kowon/ Jongpyong) equipped and staff trained.
- 50 ri clinics equipped.
- Clinic level staff trained in safe-delivery, complicated delivery and referral.
- Three safe-motherhood county assessments completed.
- An inter-agency working group on safe-motherhood was established and meet monthly (initially a sub-group of the health-nutrition group) comprising UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and key other partners.

Project Description

The project will strengthen the capacity to handle complicated deliveries and directly contribute to reduce maternal death. Given the national scale of the problem and the limited resources available, the geographic scope of the project will be limited and will be focused on training of staff. International assistance has so far been largely limited to the supply of medical equipment for delivery and surgery and an increased emphasis must now be given to a more comprehensive approach including advocacy, policy and strategy, inter-agency coordination, and institutional capacity building. Operational support in 2004 will therefore be limited in order to lay the foundation for expansion and wider impact in the following years.

Women's health and nutritional status continues to be poor. Recent surveys have found that around one third of young mothers are malnourished and anaemic. Maternal health services are not as effective as they should be. Although ante-natal services are frequently used, quality of care is low. Positively, almost all deliveries occur in a health facility. Unfortunately when emergency complications do arise, most frequently around the time of delivery, life-saving emergency obstetric care is not readily available and is of low quality. Shortages of the necessary essential

medicines and equipment, limited transportation for referral as well as inadequate health worker skills are barriers. The MoH estimates 1996 maternal mortality at approximately 110 per 100,000 live births, double the average recorded number of deaths since the late 1980s. Current rates are thought to be even higher.

UNICEF has initiated a programme to systematically re-equip health facilities with essential delivery equipment. Over 160 county hospitals (78% of all accessible counties) have been partially equipped since 1999 and a smaller number of clinics have been (250) - equipped with basic delivery kits. This includes equipment provided by the non-resident NGO, Caritas, which has been logistically managed by UNICEF. Essential medicines have been provided through the UNICEF Essential Drugs project and tetanus toxin immunisation through the UNICEF EPI project, both funded from the CAP. Support has been given to improve the quality of ante-natal care by increasing tetanus toxin immunisation and the supply of iron and folic acid tablets to reduce anaemia during pregnancy. Awareness creating activities have focussed on safer-motherhood and maternal health, particularly on care during pregnancy. Health worker training in emergency obstetric care has been given.

In spite of this progress, much more needs to be done. The project will support the development of a more comprehensive national strategy, greater awareness of the extent of the problem and ways to reduce maternal death. The project will have a limited operational component designed to lay the foundation for expansion in subsequent years. Operational support will be limited to three counties (in two provinces) which will serve as training grounds for an integrated approach to child survival and development as well as, in collaboration with partners, the provincial maternities.

UNICEF will collaborate closely with UNFPA, which is also working towards maternal mortality reduction in the DPRK.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- At least six field visits conducted jointly with MoPH staff.
- Quarterly review meetings held.
- Regular inter-agency collaboration meetings.

Prioritisation according to project funding levels

25% funded	50% funded	75% funded	100% funded
Standard training course	Upgrading of one provincial maternity	Upgrading of one additional provincial maternity	Upgrading of one additional county hospital
Training of central teams	Upgrading of one county maternity	Upgrading of one additional county maternity	20 additional clinics
National workshop	Equipping 15 clinics	Additional 15 clinics	
Provision of technical assistance			

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
Budget Items	US\$
Standard training course (MoPH) on emergency obstetric care	*
Maternal mortality reduction national workshop	4,000
Training of central teams including overseas study and technical assistance	20,000
Upgrading of two provincial maternity hospitals (Kangwon and South Hamgyong)	120,000
Upgrading of three county hospitals (Kosan, Kowon, Jongpyong)	80,000
Equipping of 50 clinics	10,000
Provincial, county, ri staff training	3,000
Project planning, monitoring and evaluation	*
County assessments	*
Supervision, monitoring and evaluation	10,000
Technical Assistance (International)	60,000
Project Support Cost	*
Sub-total	307,000
Cost recovery (see footnote)	36,840
Total	343,840

* Denotes UNICEF regular programme funding

Note: Actual recovery rate on individual contributions will be calculated in accordance with Executive Board decision 2003/9 of 5 June 2003