Overview of “Making it Happen Programme” in Kenya

The provision of emergency obstetric care by skilled birth attendants is internationally accepted as appropriate means to reduce maternal and newborn mortality; and the Kenyan government has included this in the National Health Strategy 2009-2015 as well as into the Second Medium Term Plan 2013-2017 (MTP). In line with these national priorities, the Centre for Maternal and Newborn Health-Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (CMNH-LSTM) currently works in partnership with the Kenyan Ministry of Health, DFID and UNICEF to increase the availability and improve the quality of Skilled Birth Attendance and Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) through the Making it Happen (MiH) programme.

The MiH programme has been active in Kenya since 2009 through the delivery of scalable capacity building packages in the area of maternal and newborn health (MNH). The programme has been implemented through funding from DFID UK to support the Ministry of Health in Central, Nyanza and Western regions, between 2012-2015 and has been recently expanded to include all 47 counties (2014-2018) with funding from DFID Kenya.

The key intervention areas
• Competency based EmONC training for maternity care providers and pre-service students.
• Training of maternity care providers in quality improvement methods, formation and strengthening of maternal death audit and reviews teams
• Training of maternity care providers and managers on quality MNH data collection, aggregation and use of routine data to inform practice

The five key outputs areas are:
Output 1: Increased health care provider capacity to provide EmONC
Output 2: Increased availability of EmONC for mothers and babies
Output 3: Strengthened accountability for results with increased transparency
Output 4: Strengthened Capacity to sustain improvements in MNH service delivery
Output 5: Evidence generated by programme disseminated to inform national, regional and global agenda

It is expected by 2019, 9000 in-service maternity care providers will be trained in EmONC. In addition, 180 Master Trainers and 128 Course Directors will be trained to ensure the sustainability of the programme beyond 2019 By the end of the national scale up programme, 480 healthcare providers will be trained in both quality improvement methodologies including maternal and perinatal death audits and reviews, data collection, aggregation and use of routine data to inform practice. The MiH programme will also work closely with the MoH and the National Maternal, Perinatal, Death, Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) committee to strengthen central level coordination of MPDSR activities.