

RFPD

Resource for Maternal and Child Health



- offers an evidence-based model to reduce maternal and newborn mortality
 - which reduced maternal mortality by 60% and fetal mortality by 15%
- initiates/supports scaling up of the model
- assists club projects for single interventions



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**RFPD's
contribution to
peace**



How Family Planning – part of Rotary's area of focus maternal and child health – Contributes to Peace

by Anna Schurmann
Rotary World Peace Fellow Alumna

- **There is a link between low fertility and low risk of conflict**

Since the 1970s, countries with low fertility have been less likely to experience outbreaks of civil conflict than countries with high fertility. The data are striking and consistent. (Cincotta et. al 2003).

- **The danger of a “youth bulge”**

The demographic factor with the strongest association with an outbreak of a civil conflict is a high proportion of young adults between 15 and 29 years old (a ‘youth bulge’) who are un- or under- employed. (Urdal 2007).

- **How does family planning create more stable societies?**

Smaller families typically mean greater investments into the upbringing and education of each child, resulting in greater opportunities and a brighter future. This would mean that children would be less likely to drop their tools and raise arms - to pick up arms would mean to sacrifice a fruitful life (Urdal 2007).

Similarly, peacetime facilitates the likelihood of girls attending secondary schooling, which delays marriage and reduces fertility (Bongaarts 1984).

- ▶ **Helping women gain control over their fertility is a huge contributor to peace everywhere. The connection between reproductive health and peace is something we need to put back on the security agenda and emphasize in intervention planning.**



Community Dialogue in a village in Nigeria – raising awareness for (reproductive) health is crucial

A signature project for 'Maternal and Child Health'

In a comprehensive approach, initiated and supported by RFPD and many Rotary Clubs from Austria, Germany and Nigeria, we implemented a system of quality assurance in obstetrics in selected state hospitals in northern Nigeria. Stakeholders regard this approach as a model, suitable for scaling up in other regions and countries.

- ▶ The methodology of this model was published in the International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics (July 2011).

The project includes:

- Awareness and advocacy campaign
- Introduction of quality assurance in obstetrics in selected hospitals
- Integration of health authorities (state and local) to guarantee the sustainability of the project
- Collaboration with traditional rulers and other stakeholders

Many single interventions are available, but none alone can reduce maternal and newborn mortality.

- ▶ Let us show the world that Rotary has the network and the right approach to make an impact in maternal and child health.

The first scaling up is about to start in FCT Abuja and Ondo State (in addition to the states of Kano and Kaduna), Nigeria, and will be co-funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

- ▶ **Help scaling up this Rotary signature project.**
- ▶ **Contribute to Rotary's area of focus 'Maternal and Child Health'.**
- ▶ **Commit to Rotary's Strategic Plan.**
- ▶ **This will enhance Rotary's public image and reputation.**