

The Episcopal Church of the Sudan

Diocese of Nzara, South Sudan

Refresher Training for Traditional Birth Attendance

Date: 30/07/2014

There is a great need to address the issue of **maternal death** in the nation of South Sudan which has just celebrated its third anniversary as a nation, though in many crisis than expected. It is known that Western Equatoria State, of South Sudan has the highest mortality death in the world and in South Sudan in particular. This is a big challenge as everyone on the surface of the earth is called upon to address the Millennium Development Goals.

It is recorded that one out of seven pregnant women dies due to pregnancy-related causes in South Sudan. With less than 100 midwives for the entire country, there is an urgent need for an increase in health workers to attend to the population's needs such as delivery of babies.

The Diocese of Nzara is situated in Western Equatoria State in the remote part of South Sudan bordering Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic has greatly faced the death of so many pregnant women and their babies in the neighbourhood. The diocese three years ago trained 42 Community Health Promoters whose job is to visit people in their homes and talk to them about sanitation, HIV/AIDS, Family Planning, Malaria prevention and other deceases, the importance of antenatal care, just to mention a few. This group trained have contributed a lot to raising awareness in these areas according to what they know and the work hand in hand with the TBAs.

Success made

With Support from Pewsey Community, we were able to trained 36 Traditional Birth Attendance (TBA) and provided them with kits that helped each of them to help serve the community. This training helped the TBAs to improve in their service to the community and we are glad that the rate of death of pregnant mothers has dropped significantly as a result of the work they have done. In 2011 we recorded that 2 in every 5 birth ended in either death of the infant or mother or both the mother and the child. But with the trainings of the Community Health Promoters, who went to every home in the villages, and the training of TBAs, we have been able to improve the community greatly. The years 2012 – 2013 we have recorded an average of one death in every 10 pregnancies. Around the populated church mission area, where we recorded many deaths of mothers in child birth in 2011, we have recorded zero for the years 2012 – 2013for which we are grateful. This is great news!

Goal

To improve the skills of traditional birth attendants as a short term to stop gap measure in order save lives and do more to the community.

The Diocese of Nzara has agreed to do a refresher training for the 36 Traditional Birth Attendance (TBA) trained last year to as to help them do their work better and give them basic knowledge in child delivery and also provide them with items from their maternity kits that expire such as gloves, apron, etc so that they can be able to at least save lives as we wait our nation to train professional midwives to offer services to our people. We cannot wait until this is done while women continue to die. We know there is a lot that is needed to reach the people. TBAs are women from the local villages and payams, respected among communities because of their age and experience, they are often called upon by relatives when an expectant mother is about to give birth. For these women, transport to a maternity clinic is often unaffordable, as are food costs during the stay. TBAs are always so relied upon in the villages. So to train them to provide a better service and to provide them with a basic kit will be very helpful and save many lives of mothers as well as babies.

Therefore we are humbly asking all well-wishers and friends in Pewsey who can help fund this refresher training for Traditional Birth Attendance us to train for this community. As a church we are at the grassroots with the people and can do what we can to make this happen easily.

We intend to invite the two Professional Mid-wifely Trainers from Juba or Uganda to come and conduct this 5 days training for 30 new TBAs and a 3 days refresher course for 36 in Nzara, Western Equatoria State, South Sudan.

Budget Proposal for Training of 30 TBAs

1. Feeding of 30 new TBAs for 5 days@ £7 per day	£ 1050
2. Two ways transport for the two facilitators Juba-Nzara-Juba	£ 400
3. 30 maternal kits @ £40 x 30 =	£ 1200
4. Payment to the Facilitators @ £ 400 x 2 =	£ 800
5. Administration	£ 200
6. Transport of kits from Juba to Nzara	£ 250
Total	£ 3900

Budget Proposal for Refresher Training of 36 TBAs

7. 36 maternal kits @ £25 x 36 =	£ 900
8. Transport of kits from Juba to Nzara	£ 250
9. Feeding of 36 TBA for 3 days refresher training = £7 x 3x 36 =	£ 756
Total	£ 1906

Grand Total £ 5806

NB: the assumption is that the training can follow each other as it is cost effective, so that we do not need to pay for transport twice, as well as other aspects of the budget such as administration, for the 36 TBAs we are only replacing some of the items inside the kit. The kit itself is durable.

The Diocese will cover accommodation for the participants and facilitators, free hall for training and also help transport the TBAs who are far from the villages to Nzara.

The training can be carried out as soon as we get the funds.

Thanks

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