



Aidemet Ong

Aid to the Development of the Traditional Medicine

Non-Governmental No-Profit Organization

BP 9279 Bamako – Mali

Phone and fax : 00223.20242904 – Mobil phone : 66746534 ; 76131273

E-mail : aidemet@sotelma.net.ml ; Web site: www.aidemet.org

Contribution of traditional birth attendants in the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality

On Saturday, July 2^d, 2011, in the Conference Room of the INRSP, Prof. Rokia Sanogo, President of *Aidemet* NGO, moderated a panel discussion on “Contribution of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality”, under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Fall, President of the FEMATH. The conference was organized in the context of the debate on the strengthening local health systems, and on the role of actors of traditional medicine to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It is a part of the advocacy that *Aidemet* NGO is currently undertaking, with the technical and financial support of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Bamako, in order to taking into account the resources of traditional medicine in the in the Program of Social and Health Development of Mali.

The Prof. Sanogo presented the experiences realized since 1999 for the involvement of TBAs in the management of obstetric emergencies. The activities were carried out in the Health Districts of Kolokani (Koulikoro Region), Bandiagara (Mopti Region), Kadiolo (Sikasso Region), and elsewhere, with the support of various technical and financial partners. At the center of activities it was the organization



Prof. Rokia Sanogo et M. Mohamed Fall

of TBAs information and organization workshops. “The goal was to valorize the knowledge and experience of AT in their traditional role of monitoring of pregnancy and childbirth assistance, to get them to identify and refer at time the women at risk. Analysis of data collected showed that the involvement of TBAs facilitated the women's access to services for monitoring pregnancy, delivery assistance, post-natal control and immunization of children”.

The Prof. Sanogo then stated: “There are four factors that can prevent a woman in distress to receive in time obstetric care needed to save his life: non-recognition of danger signs, delay in decision making, time too long to access to care and care not adequate in the health centers. TBAs accountability in the detection and quick reference of women at risk can help to reduce significantly the first two delays”. In conclusion, she emphasized that: “The involvement of TBAs in the promotion of low-risk pregnancy may be an important contribution of traditional medicine in achieving the Millennium Development Goals regarding the reduction of the maternal and infant mortality”.



We remind that the *Aidemet* NGO experiences and reflections on TBAs and obstetric emergencies were capitalized in a book, published in November 2009 and available at the headquarters of *Aidemet* Ong, in the bookstores in Bamako, and, in electronic version, on the site web: www.aidemet.org.

Bamako, July 2011.

Text written by Dr Sergio Giani, *Aidemet* NGO

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