

EDC News Letter

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1. Report on:

Inter-Country Meeting on Strengthening Medical Education in the
Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO), Cairo,
27 – 29 November 2014

Rationale of the meeting:

The production of health professionals in particular physicians in the required numbers and of adequate quality is essential for any well performing health system. It is estimated that more than three hundreds colleges, faculties or schools of medicine are operating in the 22 Member States in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR). In recent years, there has been a substantial increase in the number of medical schools, which has led to significant expansion in the medical workforce in the EMR. The physician population density rose significantly from the year 1990 to the year 2013 with the exception of Group 3 countries.

Health system strengthening has been identified as one of the five strategic priorities for the work of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean with its Member States over five years (2012 to 2016). Developing a balanced, motivated, well-distributed and managed health workforce with the appropriate skills mix was one of the priorities identified for strengthening health systems.

Medical education faces many challenges in the region, triggered by the fast globalization movement, changing burden of disease, fast growing privatization of health services, as well as medical education, emergence of new diseases, raised patient and community expectations, and political instability and conflicts. These challenges are also witnessed at the global level. Medical education has undergone transformation over the last two decades globally and many new interventions and changes have been introduced to ensure the graduation of competent practitioners.

EDITORIAL



To give examples, the global consensus on social accountability was reached and actually adopted by many medical schools, The WHO initiative on transforming and scaling up health professional education and training opened many channels for improving medical education. The growing movement towards accreditation, which is initiated by the World Federation of Medical Education, is a significant movement towards high quality medical education. The adoption of innovative approaches such as community-based education, competency-based education and problem-based learning by many medical schools worldwide is another important step contributing to effective educational approaches.

Lack of comprehensive and adequate information at a larger scale has been a barrier to countries as well as to organizations such as WHO, to help develop evidence-informed policies that address health workforce strategies. In response to this dire need, EMRO has launched a comprehensive study based on an online survey (Eastern Mediterranean Medical Education Study (EMMES)) including 102 questions organized into eleven sections covering all aspects of medical education. A literature review was conducted for all online medical education journals for the last fifteen years as well as local journals and grey literature. Furthermore, site visits to selected medical schools were performed. The aim of this study is to identify and prioritize challenges and identify recommendations to overcome them.

The Regional Office organized the meeting on medical education to present and discuss the results of EMMES and decide on options and priorities to transform medical education in line with the World Health Assembly resolution on transforming health professions education and the global consensus for social accountability of medical schools.

Objectives of the meeting were to:

- Share the current status of medical education in the region based on the findings of the Eastern Mediterranean Medical Education Study (EMMES).
- Identify and prioritize challenges facing medical education in the region.
- Present successful experiences and good practices in medical education from within and outside the region.
- Develop a roadmap for strengthening medical education in the region.

Participants included were:

- Selected deans of medical schools in the region

EDITORIAL

- International experts in medical education
- Representatives of medical councils
- Representatives of the World Federation of Medical Education
- Representative of the Association of Medical Education in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (AMEER)
- WHO Collaborating Centers in EMRO
- Arab board for Medical Specialization
- Selected directors of national accrediting bodies
- Representative of the Scientific Society of Arab Faculties of Medicine

Participants from Sudan:

- Prof. Amar Eltahir – Dean Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum
- Prof. Hayder Elhadi- Dean Faculty of Medicine, University of Gezira
- Prof. Elzian Karar – President of the Sudan Medical Council
- Dr. Samir Shaheen – Director of EDC, University of Khartoum
- Dr. Wail Nuri - director of EDC, University of Gezira
- We were the largest group from one country.



Methodology and Agenda:

The meeting was participant-centered in nature with plenary sessions, key presentations, selected country presentations, group work and discussions. The agenda was arranged around three components: Eastern Mediterranean Medical Education Study results, international experiences and best practices in medical

EDITORIAL

education, and a road map for strengthening medical education in the region addressing curriculum development, governance of medical schools, student selection, assessment, faculty development, quality and accreditation, educational resources and instructional methods.

Outcomes achieved:

- A list of priority challenges of medical education in the region.
- Recommendations and strategies to overcome these challenges.
- A general roadmap for strengthening medical education in the region and the way forward.

A general road map was developed to support Member States to transform medical education by strengthening medical schools' institutional capacities in planning based on informed decisions making, development of faculty capacities in curriculum design, student assessment, programme evaluation, and promoting community-oriented, community-based and student centered medical education as well as initiating effective programmes for internal quality assurance in medical schools in the region.

The participants agreed upon the importance and benefits of the meeting. They requested the EMRO to continue its efforts and to arrange such meetings every two years.

2. Report on:

The annual meeting of the Initiative of the University of Gezira Safe
Motherhood and Childhood
2005 - 2015



Name of the event: Meeting of the Gezira Initiative Committee No 22-2014

Date: 31 December 2014

Place: Elhesahesa Locaity, Hesaesa Hospital Ob/Gyn.

Introduction and Rationale of the meeting:

Gezira Initiative for Safe motherhood and Childhood was established in 2005 by Professor Ismael Hassan Hussain and under his patronage Gezira Wali-at that time-A/Rahman Sir Elkhatim. The aim of the initiative is to reduce the maternal mortality rate (MMR) and neonatal mortality rate in Gezira State by at least 50% within five years (2005-2010), extended to another 5 Years (2010-2015).

The annual meeting is a periodic meeting every six months. The aim is to review the progress in maternal and neonatal services in Gezira State, discuss and review maternal mortality and neonatal

EDITORIAL

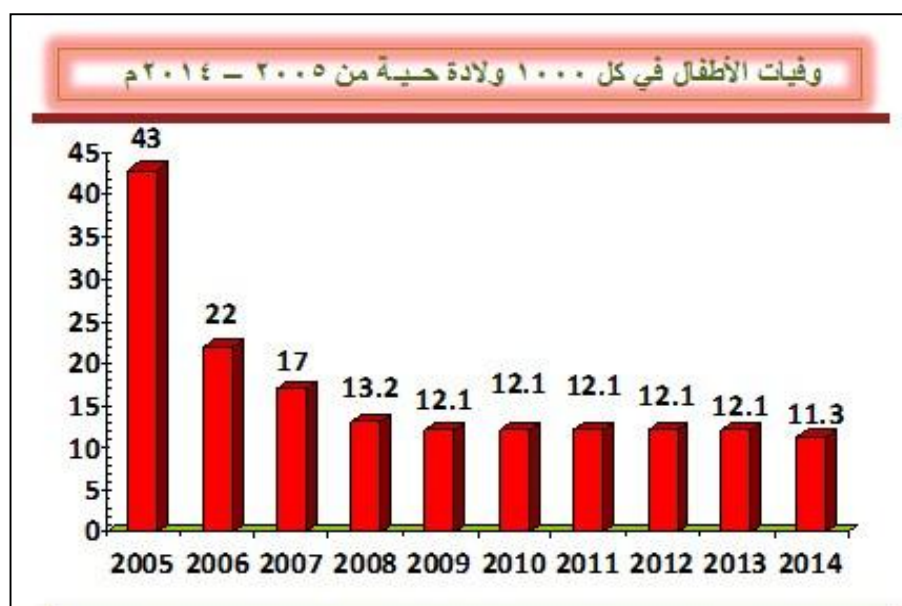
mortality rates and to formulate recommendations help in improvement of the maternal health services in Gezira State.

Objectives of the meeting were to:

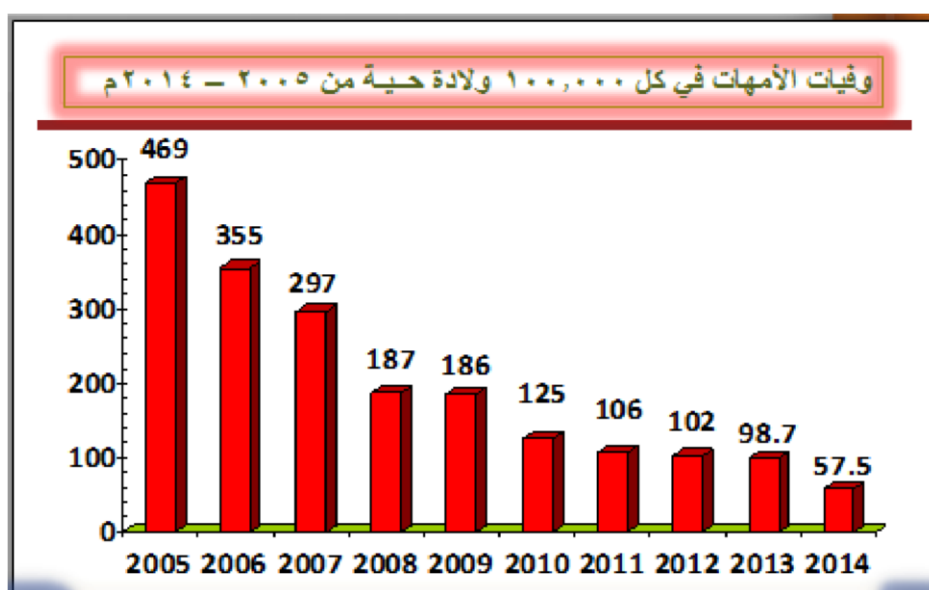
1. Discuss and approve the meeting agenda
2. Discuss and approve the previous meeting outcome, achievement and recommendations.
3. Discuss and review the Maternal mortality Report 2014
4. Discuss and approve the Initiative Committee report
5. Review the hospitals report about situation analysis
6. Formulate recommendations for more improvement in maternal health services.

Participants included were:

1. Gezira University Vice Chancellor
2. Gezira State Minister of Health
3. Gezira University Deputy Vice Chancellor
4. Dean Faculty of Medicine University of Gezira
5. Establisher of the initiative; Prof Ismael Hassan Husain
6. EDC Chair
7. Representative from Gezira Hospitals
8. General Director Hesaheza Hospital
9. Member of the initiative committee
10. Representatives from Gezira State Ministry of Health included;
 - a. General directorate of Primary Health Care
 - b. General directorate of maternal health
 - c. General directorate of training
 - d. Directorate of Midwifery
11. Doctors, registrars and medical officers
12. Pediatricians
13. Midwife
14. Quest : Professor Ahmed Alsafi (Sudan Medical Council)



Infant mortality rate (INR) per 1000 live birth, Gezira State



Maternal mortality rate (MNR) per 1000 live birth, Gezira State

Main outcomes achieved:

1. MMR in the year 2014 was found to be 57.5/100000 live birth
2. NMR in the year 2014 was found to be 11.3/1000 live births
3. Strength on the useful partnership between University of Gezira and State Ministry of Health in future planning.
4. Development of new curricula for in-serve training included; (1) theatre attendants, (2) anesthetists assistant and (3) medical officers.
5. Situation analysis of midwives regarding their jobs availability, basic training and in-serve training.
6. Plans for the "A midwife for every village in Gezira State" project.
7. Development of standard lists for neonatal service, labour room and theatre

EDITORIAL

8. Situation analysis in departments of obstetrics and gynecology in Gezira State hospitals.

Awards celebration:

At the end of meeting , the initiative represent in Hesaesa Hospital awarded certificates of excellence for four highly qualified professional expert in the field of obstetric and gynaecology.

1. Professor Omer Ahmed Mirghani, Professor of obstetrics and gynecology and chair of the initiative committee and establishing member.
2. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Fatah; senior obstetrician and gynecologist
3. Mrs Alawia Mohamed Salih; senior midwife
4. Mrs Awatif Zaroug ; senior midwife