



ONLINE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

ON

**"COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT TO STRENGTHEN MATERNAL
AND NEONATAL HEALTH CARE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC"**

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1. **Course Name:** "Community Empowerment to Strengthen Maternal and Neonatal Health Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic"
 2. **Duration:** December 14 - 18, 2020 (between 12.00 - 15.00 pm. in Bangkok, Thailand local time (GMT+7))
 3. **Implementing Agency:** Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University
 4. **Background and Justification**

To ensure healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages (Sustainable Development Goal 3) is essential to the Global Goals. Two major targets under Sustainable Development Goal 3 are to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 births and to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births. Major progress has been made in order to achieve these targets and the report shows that maternal and newborn mortality dropped globally by about 40 per cent. However, maternal mortality from pregnancy- or childbirth-related complications is unacceptably high, about 830 women per day. Almost all of these deaths occurred in low-resource settings, and most could have been prevented and treated.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new global pandemic that has disrupted essential services, which could lead to an increase in maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. Furthermore, the lockdowns, curfews, and increased risk for contracting COVID-19 may affect how women access health facilities. As a result, the decision-making process needs the support from community leaders, community members, and family members. Village health workers and public health personnel in the community take critical roles not only in providing essential interventions and health services, but also enhancing community empowerment.

The population's involvement has always proven to be a basic element in outbreaks and epidemics. Community empowerment is the process by which people gain control over the factors and decisions that shape their lives. This approach engages full community

participation in order to increase people's skills, knowledge and confidence, and instill in them a belief that they can make a difference. To provide comprehensive and effective maternal and neonatal health care during COVID-19, village health workers and public health personnel in the community require knowledge, skills, and abilities that are essential for the success of his/her service. The development of the training course in enhancing community empowerment to strengthen maternal and neonatal health care during COVID-19 has been initiated. The training is an important strategy for transforming knowledge into action on the ground.

TICA is a national focal point for Thailand's international development cooperation. TICA was established in 2004 to realize Thailand's aspiration to be a contributor of development cooperation. Believing that global challenges are best addressed by international cooperation and global partnership, today we continue to strengthen our contribution to achieve global development agenda through various capacity-building and human resources development programmes. In response to the recent changes in the global landscape of development cooperation, especially through the concept of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, TICA continues to realign our focuses in order to deliver Thailand's commitment to be a relevant partner in global agendas including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Nearly 60 years, Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University (FON CMU) is recognized as an international center in nursing education, learning and research innovation. FON CMU also provide more than 20 international training courses related to strengthening reproductive health care and strengthening maternal and newborn health care for professionals looking to deepen their knowledge and skills. Lessons learned from the project implementation are: 1) high level of collaboration and ownership required at community and policy level in order to provide equitable and sustainable maternal healthcare to vulnerable women, families, and communities; 2) the effective process arises from community participation and interdisciplinary team in combination with supportive mechanism from various organizations including family, community organization, local administrative organization, a district health promotion hospital, and education institutions. We continuously develop and maintain a robust professional network with community and hospital settings in promoting maternal and neonatal well-being. The FON CMU's staff expertise and case studies can help international trainees to gain a deeper understanding of the implementation challenges of maternal and newborn health care in order to meet the SDG3 targets.

FON CMU will provide a challenging online course to train nurses, midwives and health personnel with an aim to improve their knowledge and skills in providing maternal and neonatal health services to the community during COVID-19. This online training course will help strengthen the capacity of health personnel who play an important role in providing maternal and neonatal health services in the community. The anticipated outcomes of this training course will be ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths through community empowerment.

4. Objectives: After the training, participants will be able to: