



**FIGO**

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF  
GYNECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS

# **Misoprostol for Post Partum Hemorrhage in Low Resource Settings**

## **Sub-agreement between Gynuity Health Projects and the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics**

**Project Period: 2010 - 2014**

### **Proposed Sub Agreement Activities**

**Submitted March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics  
to Gynuity Health Projects**

**Misoprostol for Post Partum Hemorrhage in Low Resource Settings  
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Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics**

**International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)**

Responsible Person: Hamid Rushwan – Chief Executive

**Introduction:**

FIGO was founded in 1954 as a professional organisation bringing together obstetrical and gynecological associations from 124 countries/territories distributed over five world regions.

It has organised a [World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics](#) every three years since 1954.

Headquarters: London, UK

**Vision:**

FIGO has a vision that women of the world achieve the highest possible standards of physical, mental, reproductive and sexual health and wellbeing throughout their lives.

**Mission Statement:**

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) shall be a professional organisation that brings together obstetrical and gynecological associations from all over the world.

FIGO shall be dedicated to the improvement of women's health and rights and to the reduction of disparities in health care available to women and newborns, as well as to advancing the science and practice of obstetrics and gynecology. The organisation shall pursue its mission through advocacy, programmatic activities, capacity strengthening of member associations and education and training.

**Values:**

The values of the organisation shall be those of: innovative leadership, integrity, transparency, professionalism, respect for cultural diversity and high scientific and ethical standards.

**Overall Goals:**

Improvement of the health and wellbeing of women and newborn children worldwide.

Raising the status of women and enabling their active participation to achieve their reproductive and sexual rights with access to efficient education and services throughout the life cycle.

Upgrading the practice of obstetrics and gynecology through education and training and research to maintain a high standard of professionalism and ethical adherence.

**Commitment:**

Encouraging all efforts for raising the status of women and for advancing their role in all issues related to women's health.

1. Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights and services through education, research and advocacy, as well as through the provision of accessible, efficient, affordable, sustainable and comprehensive reproductive health services.

2. Emphasising the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015. FIGO is committed to accelerating its efforts and activities to reach MDG targets, especially in the area of safe motherhood and newborn health

3. Continually upgrading the practice of gynecology and obstetrics through research, education and training, and by maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and scientific and ethical standards.

4. Improving communication with and between member associations and building the capacities of those from low-resource countries through strengthening leadership, management, good practice and the promotion of policy dialogues.

5. Strengthening capacities to enable societies to play a pivotal role in the development and implementation of sustainable programmes aimed at the improvement of care available to women and newborns, especially for poor and underserved populations

**Existing programs and services****FIGO MAJOR INITIATIVES:****Saving Mothers and Newborns Initiative**

- To reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality and contribute to the achievement of MDG goals 4 and 5 in a series of low income countries.

- To build and sustain the capacity of the ob/gyn and midwifery societies in the participating developing countries to conduct essential projects relevant to the promotion of safe motherhood and the improvement of maternal health.

#### **FIGO/GATES Maternal and Newborn Health Initiative**

- To improve policy and practice by strengthening FIGO Member Associations and using their position and knowledge to facilitate and contribute to these improvements, leading to better maternal and newborn health for under served populations in low- and middle-resource countries.
- To strengthen the organisational capacity of FIGO MAs in eight African or Asian low- or middle-resource countries with high maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity to play an active role in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national maternal health plans.
- To enable professional associations to undertake advocacy activities aimed at raising awareness and influencing policy on issues related to maternal and newborn health at the national or regional level.
- To promote South-South collaboration between the eight initial countries and seven additional countries through the establishment of knowledge-sharing processes.

#### **Prevention and Treatment of Post Partum Hemorrhage**

- Joint project involving FIGO, USAID, the International Confederation of Midwives and others.
- Major initiative launched at FIGO World Congress in Santiago, Chile, in 2003.
- Action steps published and disseminated through society correspondence, FIGO Newsletter and website etc.

#### **Ob/Gyns for Women's Sexual and Reproductive Rights Project**

- A major four year project designed to build on a vision where individual Obstetrician/Gynecologists (Ob/Gyns) would: be aware of human rights issues related to women's sexual and reproductive health; practice in concert with these rights; and be a force at the community, national and international levels to promote the respect, protection and implementation of these rights.
- To educate and increase awareness of Ob/Gyn professionals about women's rights.
- To involve Ob/Gyn professionals in an evaluation of their practice to assess whether they are protecting and promoting these rights.
- To encourage the collaboration of Ob/Gyn professionals with other forces in the civil society; to protect, promote and advance women's sexual and reproductive rights.
- To educate and increase awareness of Ob/Gyn professionals about women's rights relating to sexual and reproductive health.

### **Prevention and Treatment of Obstetric Vaginal Fistulae**

- Initiated by FIGO in 2001.
- Joint project involving FIGO, UNFPA, WHO, Columbia University “Averting Maternal Death & Disability” Programme and others.
- FIGO responsibility is training and education.

### **FIGO Adolescent Health Project**

- The survey explored member society perceptions of national policy, service delivery, professional training and education, and attitudes towards adolescents.
- Funded by the United Nations Fund for Population and Development and carried out by a contracted independent research body.
- Ultimate goal of strengthening the capacity of member associations to support adolescent sexual and reproductive health interventions at the national level.

### **Prevention of Unsafe Abortion Project**

- To contribute to the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity associated with unsafe abortion through three mechanisms: reducing unintended/unwanted pregnancies; improving access to safe abortion services; and increasing the quality of and access to post-abortion care in 50 selected countries.

## **Background Information**

### **a) Description of Need**

Every year approximately 560,000 women die of maternal mortality and another 10 million suffer injuries related to pregnancy and childbirth. Of these maternal deaths 99 per cent take place in lower resource settings, the vast majority being in Sub Saharan Africa. Women in developing settings face a one in 61 chance of dying of a post partum hemorrhage, whereas in developed settings the risk is one in 2,800.

Approximately 30 per cent of direct maternal deaths are due to Post Partum Hemorrhage (PPH). The vast majority of these deaths take place in low resource settings where skilled care and medical supplies are at a premium. For women to die at a time of such expectation is a gross social injustice that shatters families and communities. Maternal mortality remains a critical indicator of global development efforts and at present is lagging sorely behind. Of the eight Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015, MDG 5 - to reduce maternal mortality by two thirds - has shown the least progress and has even demonstrated regression in some countries.

Maternal mortality is not a simple issue; there is no single magic solution. Nevertheless, we know what it takes to save women's lives and a number of innovative technologies and techniques have been developed for

application to low resource settings. While accessible skilled medical personnel - equipped with appropriate supplies, medications and training - are the ideal, such services are out of reach for many of the world's women, particularly those who are low income, stigmatised or living away from urban centers. Treating post partum hemorrhage with Misoprostol is an innovative option with great viability in low resource settings where other methods are not easily accessed.

At the present time, the ideal treatment for PPH is Active Management of the Third Stage of Labour (AMTSL).

AMSTL includes:

- Administration of a uterotonic agent within one minute after the baby is born;
- After the cord is clamped, delivery of the placenta by controlled cord traction (gently pulling on the umbilical cord) with counter-traction on the fundus;
- Fundal massage after delivery of the placenta.

Facilities that are equipped with intravenous fluid or drug therapy, capabilities and supplies for blood transfusions, as well as the ability to perform advanced surgical interventions, are also important in preventing maternal deaths related to post partum hemorrhage.

Oxytocin is the most routinely used uterotonic agent. This drug contracts the uterus and assists in stopping bleeding. While an inexpensive drug, Oxytocin requires special storage requirements such as refrigeration, as well as the use of needles and syringes.

Recently Misoprostol has been explored as an alternative uterotonic agent. Misoprostol is also low in cost and is administered orally, rectally, vaginally and sublingually. Storage requirements are low as it does not need refrigeration and has a long shelf life. It remains stable at high temperatures. These characteristics indicate its suitability for low resource settings where health system capacities are variable and maternal mortality is high. Additionally, Misoprostol is suitable for use by a range of health providers and can be easily administered at the community level.

## **b) Why the organisation is well positioned to meet the need**

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics is the only international organisation that brings together the world's national professional societies and associations of obstetricians and gynecologists. Since 1954 FIGO has been working towards improved sexual and reproductive health and professional excellence worldwide. Health professionals are key players in the day to day expression of sexual and reproductive health and rights and hold important social and expert roles. Their involvement in the most intimate aspects of women's lives and their

high level of training makes them relied upon and respected members of society with far-reaching influence.

FIGO is a well positioned key player in reducing maternal mortality. A number of existing and past FIGO projects have worked with national member associations to build their capacities and establish national guidelines, to advocate and to lobby governing bodies. FIGO has also been a leader in training health care professionals in rights-based programming and in the development of international tools and guidelines to assist health care professionals in the day to day protection of people's sexual and reproductive rights and health. Drawing on these past experiences and the technical expertise of its members, FIGO is uniquely poised to be a leader in maternal health and in the prevention of PPH. This leadership has been demonstrated in over ten years of activity related to PPH. Leveraging FIGO's important partnerships and expertise, FIGO has taken a number of actions in an attempt to reduce the burden of maternal mortality as it relates to PPH. One such activity has been the creation of joint statements with the International Confederation of Midwives on the prevention and treatment of PPH in low resource settings. The 2003 Joint Statement highlighted ten key actions that ICM and FIGO are working towards. The 2006 Statement followed up such actions with a comprehensive discussion of new advances in treatment and prevention for low resource settings. Both statements call upon national professional associations of medical experts to prioritise the lives of women and the 2006 Statement makes specific calls to action, recommendations for the prevention and treatment of PPH and highlights existing research needs. Additionally, the 2006 Statement highlights the important new role of misoprostol in tackling maternal mortality, as well as calling for greater research on the drug and its practical application.

FIGO has been an active member of POPPHI – the USAID-funded Prevention of Post Partum Hemorrhage Initiative. This five year initiative included FIGO, Engender Health, PATH, RTI International and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). Throughout the five-year project, the collective was able to:

- Expand AMTSL through non-training approaches to improve provider practice.
- Improve the quality and availability of AMTSL at facilities.
- Improve the quality and availability of AMTSL at the community level.
- Make uterotonic drugs and devices available at low cost to countries.

During the five-year life of POPPHI, the project contributed greatly to highlighting the importance of the prevention of treatment of PPH in reducing maternal mortality globally.

## **Implementation Modalities and Monitoring and Evaluation:**

FIGO HQ will be responsible for the implementation of the project as well as monitoring the progress of the project. The full time Project Manager, with the support of the secretariat and consultants, will provide regular oversight of the implementation of the project activities. This will be achieved by examining the agreed upon Logistic Framework outline of indicators. A routine data gathering, analysis and reporting system will be put in place to provide continuous information and enhance ongoing learning experiences, as well as ensure the greatest effectiveness of project activities. FIGO will evaluate all project activities internally as well as be subject to any evaluation criteria as set out by Gynuity and their funding organisations.

### **Project Management:**

- FIGO will appoint a Project Manager (please see terms of reference attached) who will be responsible for the project. The Project Manager will be under the supervision of the FIGO Chief Executive. The Project Manager will be supported by three Regional Consultants as well as secretariat assistance.
- A workplan will be developed by the Project Manager with reference to the goals and objectives and established Logistic Framework. The workplan will be implemented in reference to the timeline and will be subject to monitoring and evaluation at set periods. Periodic reporting will be included as a part of the workplan. This will be verified by Gynuity.
- The Project Manager will prepare a quarterly report in a set format outlining the achievements and outputs against the objectives set out in the Logistic Framework and work plan. This report will be shared with Gynuity and FIGO. The preparation and presentation of these reports will be the responsibility of the Project Manager.
- FIGO SMNH Committee: FIGO has a dedicated committee on Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health which is formed of distinguished ob/gyns from all FIGO geographical regions. This Committee will provide technical support to this project.

### **Half Day session at FIGO World Congress and Regional and Sub Regional FIGO Meetings:**

- Evaluations will be filled out by participants in the planned project sessions to evaluate their knowledge on PPH and Misoprostol, as well as to indicate their impressions regarding the meetings and training sessions. These evaluations will be applied



to further develop and tailor subsequent meetings to fit the needs of the participants.

### **Country Level Activities:**

- Target countries will be expected to participate in regular meetings with the Project Manager and to provide work plans and reports on project activities at regular intervals. The Project Manager and regional consultants will visit the selected countries and submit reports on the progress of their activities.

### **Development of materials to disseminate on the use of Misoprostol for PPH:**

- This will take place from FIGO HQ in regard to existing materials on PPH and Misoprostol. A review and evaluation of existing technical and teaching materials on PPH and Misoprostol will take place at baseline to help determine the ways developed project materials will differ and add to the existing knowledge. A small literature review and analysis of the current state of academic discussion and public and partner knowledge on Misoprostol for PPH will also take place at baseline.

- Consultants will be hired to assist in the development of materials and consultations will take place to ensure help ensure that the material involves the concerns of major stakeholders and is targeted to the appropriate audience. Once developed, focus groups will take place to pilot the materials.

- Once materials have been developed they will be shared with project countries and adapted and translated to fit the local context. This will be done by country partners with the assistance of consultants.

- Dissemination plans will be developed and monitored for receipt and application of the shared materials. This will be done by country partners and the project manager at FIGO HQ and monitored through reporting activities.

### **Overall Evaluation:**

- Overall evaluation of the sub agreement will be included within the evaluation of the whole project on Misoprostol for Postpartum Hemorrhage as outlined by Gynuity and their funding bodies.

## LOGISTIC FRAMEWORK

### MISOPROSTOL FOR POST PARTUM HEMORRHAGE IN LOW RESOURCE SETTINGS

#### Sub-agreement between Gynuity Health Projects and the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Activity	Responsibility	Indicator	Output	Time Frame
<b>OVERALL GOAL:</b> To contribute to the overall goal of the Gynuity and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation project by filling in information gaps about the utility, role and cost of Misoprostol in addressing the problem of post partum hemorrhage.				
<b>Objective One:</b> To act as a 'guiding' organisation for advocacy among the medical community for reduction of maternal mortality and highlighting post partum hemorrhage as the main cause in low resource settings, incorporating strong collaboration with international affiliates.				
<b>Activity 1:</b> Appointment of full time Public Health specialist for project management	FIGO	To have hired the Public Health Specialist	Program Management Plan prepared and implemented	2 <sup>nd</sup> month of the project
<b>Activity 2:</b> Appointment of three specialist consultants to advise on the project	FIGO	To have appointed the required specialist consultants	Provision of support to Regional activities in preparation and implementation	4 <sup>th</sup> month of the project
<b>Activity 3:</b> Provision of secretarial support	FIGO	Project Documentation; Preparation and dissemination of reports	Good communication between partners	Ongoing throughout the project
<b>Activity 4:</b> Provision of support for the development of materials	FIGO	Education and training materials for professional associations and health	Wide access to materials; Wide use of Misoprostol for PPH in target	2 <sup>nd</sup> year of the project

		personnel prepared and disseminated	countries	
<p><b>Activity 5:</b> Participation in Half Day session at Regional or Sub Regional FIGO Meetings</p>	FIGO	4 half day regional and sub regional meetings to be conducted on Misoprostol for PPH (Africa, Asia, Latin America)	Greater awareness amongst health care professionals about Misoprostol for PPH; Greater utilisation of MISO for PPH	Annually throughout the project
<p><b>Activity 6:</b> Selection of specific agreed-upon countries for dissemination and advocacy activities to be further delineated by each country.</p>	FIGO	To have selected the target countries; Preparation and dissemination of advocacy materials in each country; Translation to appropriate languages and country adaptation of materials; Dissemination plan for advocacy materials	Greater knowledge created amongst policy makers and health care professionals regarding Misoprostol for PPH; Policy changes to allow for the use of Misoprostol for PPH; General increase in the use of Misoprostol for PPH	Selected target countries within six months of the project  Prepared and disseminated materials within the first year
<p><b>Objective Two:</b> Dissemination of information on strong evidence-based results (provided by Gynuity) of the effectiveness of Misoprostol in prevention and treatment of PPH.</p>				
<p><b>Activity 7:</b> Development of IJGO supplement on Misoprostol and PPH</p>	FIGO	Supplement on Misoprostol for PPH published and disseminated in the	Increased evidence base on Misoprostol for PPH; Greater interest and discussion of	In the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of the project

		second year	<p>Misoprostol in academia; Greater incorporation of Misoprostol into policy and practice; Inclusion of Misoprostol in teaching and training of health care professionals</p>	
<p><b>Activity 8:</b> Featured articles related to Misoprostol and PPH in the FIGO Journal</p>	FIGO	<p>Two featured articles on Misoprostol for PPH published and disseminated each year</p>	<p>Increased evidence base on Misoprostol for PPH; Greater interest and discussion of Misoprostol in academia; Greater incorporation of Misoprostol into policy and practice; Inclusion of Misoprostol in teaching and training of health care professionals</p>	Annually throughout the project
<p><b>Activity 9:</b> Features related to Misoprostol and PPH, as well as project activities to be featured in the FIGO Newsletter and website</p>	FIGO	<p>Report on project activities in FIGO website and Newsletter; Reports on success stories and achievements at the national level</p>	<p>Greater knowledge of project achievements by stakeholders, partners and national organisations; Increased interest by FIGO member associations in project</p>	Four times yearly throughout the project

<p><b>Activity 10:</b> Submission of articles, opinion pieces and reports as opportunities arise</p>	<p>FIGO</p>	<p>Media monitoring for Misoprostol and PPH and responding appropriately to current debates and discussions</p>	<p>participation Public acknowledgement and impression of FIGO and Gynuity as expert resources on Misoprostol for PPH and maternal mortality in general</p>	<p>Ongoing throughout the project</p>
<p><b>Activity 11:</b> Half day Pre-Congress session at the XX FIGO World Congress, Rome 2012</p>	<p>FIGO</p>	<p>Half day sessions organised and reports prepared</p>	<p>Positive influence on policy; Greater knowledge of Misoprostol for PPH</p>	<p>October 2012 FIGO World Congress</p>
<p><b>Objective Three:</b> <b>Development of materials to disseminate, including guidelines, protocols and teaching curricula for professional groups on the use of Misoprostol for PPH.</b></p>				
<p><b>Activity 12:</b> Consultations on guideline development, protocols and teaching curricula and the development of materials</p>	<p>FIGO and consultants</p>	<p>Development of guidelines and protocols for distribution at national levels; Teaching curriculum developed for use by medical and midwifery institutions at the national level</p>	<p>Guidelines and protocols as well as teaching materials are made widely available; Increased knowledge and policy, creating a positive understanding of the use of Misoprostol in PPH; Greater incorporation of Misoprostol for PPH into knowledge and practice</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the project</p>
<p><b>Activity 13:</b> Development of dissemination</p>	<p>FIGO</p>	<p>Development of dissemination strategy;</p>	<p>On hand access for health care professionals</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> year of the project</p>

strategy		<p>Adaptation of materials at the county level;          Translation;          Production and printing;          Dissemination through workshops for trainers and the FIGO website and to all FIGO affiliates</p>	<p>to current technical information on Misoprostol for PPH;          Greater use of Misoprostol for PPH;          Sharing of resources with local bodies of interest</p>	
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## Annex One: Terms of Reference for Project Manager



### **International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics ("FIGO")**

#### **Misoprostol for Post Partum Hemorrhage in Low Resource Settings Project Manager**

##### **Job Description**

FIGO – the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics ("FIGO") – is the only organisation that brings together professional societies of obstetricians and gynecologists on a global basis. Currently it has member societies in 124 countries or territories.

The organisation's mission is to promote the well-being of women and their children and to raise the standard of practice in obstetrics and gynecology around the world. It strives to ensure respect for women and advancement of their status and promote greater involvement of women in our specialty. FIGO commits its resources to the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights through educational, research and advocacy activities and to strengthening its communication links with and between its member societies.

FIGO has recently obtained funding to promote the use of Misoprostol in the treatment of post partum hemorrhage. Such a project will enable FIGO to assist its member societies in low- and middle-resource countries with high levels of maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity to play a catalytic role in making positive changes in policy and practice for maternal health, especially for the poor and underserved population.

The overall goal of the project is to fill information gaps about the utility, role and cost of Misoprostol in addressing the problem of post partum hemorrhage. This goal will be achieved by working with FIGO to:

- Develop FIGO as a guiding organisation for advocacy among the medical community for reduction of maternal mortality and highlighting post partum hemorrhage as the main cause in low resource settings, incorporating strong collaboration with international affiliates.
- Disseminate information on strong evidence-based results of the effectiveness of Misoprostol in the prevention and treatment of PPH.
- Develop materials to disseminate, including guidelines, protocols and teaching curricula for professional groups on the use of Misoprostol for PPH.

The role of the new Project Manager will be to:

1. Work with FIGO's chief executive officer and the FIGO secretariat as well as other project partners.
2. Provide managerial and technical assistance at the FIGO Headquarters with the implementation of project activities in the selected project countries. This will be achieved by closely examining the agreed efficiency, effectiveness and impact indicators.
3. Develop a comprehensive routine data gathering, analysis and reporting system to provide project management and beneficiaries with continuous information, enhance ongoing learning experiences, ensure greater effectiveness of project interventions and guarantee project accountability with donors and stakeholders.
4. Undertake technical monitoring visits to the selected countries to assist in implementation of activities when needed. Assist in the development of regional work plans.
5. Assist with follow up on the project activities.
6. Prepare quarterly reports in a set format outlining the achievements and outputs against the objectives.
7. Comprehensively document project activities and undertake regular technical, administrative and financial reporting.
8. Prepare narrative and financial reports to funding bodies and appropriate senior FIGO officials and governing bodies.
9. Maintain contact and ensure appropriate communication with all those involved at international, national and regional levels in the project.
10. Assist the Project Director in monitoring the timely receipt of reports, ensuring their consistency with the approved project objectives.
11. Provide information to the Chief Executive, and appropriate senior FIGO officials, when troubleshooting efforts are needed.
12. Any other duties commensurate with the main objectives of the role as assigned from time to time by the Chief Executive.

The Project Manager will work under the immediate supervision of the Project Director.

**Ideal candidate**

The ideal candidate will be preferably a public health specialist, or have wide experience in the management of maternal and newborn health projects in low-resource countries in Africa and Asia.

**Term**

This will be a fixed-term appointment of one year but will be renewed annually as per satisfactory performance reporting with a view to renewing the appointment to provide an overall commitment linked to the project term of four years.

**Salary**

By negotiation and commensurate with experience.