



WORLD BANK GROUP

**A World Bank's contribution to
the midwifery movement:**

**the Sahel Women Empowerment
and Demographic Dividend
regional Project**

**Washington DC,
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The Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) project

- In December 2014, the World Bank has approved a \$170 million budget for a Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) regional project.
- The project covers 5 countries (and very soon Burkina Faso): Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.
- With Burkina Faso, the project budget will be \$205m.
- The project has been developed and will be implemented with UNFPA.
- Project objectives are
 - (i) to increase women and adolescent girls' empowerment and their access to quality reproductive, child and maternal health services, and
 - (ii) to improve regional knowledge generation and sharing as well as regional capacity and coordination.

Three worrying issues about midwives in the Sahel

- **Low availability of midwives**
- **Weak quality on all aspects of pre-service education :**
 - Competence of trainers
 - Resources for schools
 - Resources for internship sites and supervisors
- **Excessive concentration of midwives in urban areas**
 - Situation is worse than for nurses
 - Policy options to address the problem are more limited than for nurses and even doctors

Injecting more resources into midwifery education may help ...

The SWEDD project will allocate about \$40 million to strengthen pre-education of midwives in the 6 countries:

- Creation of a regional center of excellence for (re)training midwifery faculty
- Strengthening of national schools as well as internship sites

...but “new” approaches and policies – such as the rural pipeline - are also needed

- Existing midwives (already concentrated in urban areas) will not go in rural areas. As Asian countries successfully did before, there is an urgent need to “ruralize” the whole pipeline, from pre-service education to deployment. That requires:
 - Admitting more students with a rural background (quotas, local admission tests, mentoring)
 - Building more schools outside main urban centers
 - Strengthening the curriculum for including management aspects
 - Decentralizing processes for recruitment, posting and salary payment

THANK YOU

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