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# EDITORIAL

# Introducing the Nigerian Partnership for Safe Motherhood

In this maiden edition of the newsletter, it is my pleasure to introduce the Nigerian Partnership for Safe Motherhood (NPSM). NPSM was conceived after four Nigerians attended an International Leadership Training Course on reproductive health in California, USA in 2001. At that meeting, the Nigerian participants -Professor Bene Madunagu, Professor F E Okonofua, Hajia Mairo Bello, and Dr Nike Adeyemi made a presentation on the high rate of maternal mortality in Nigeria. It

was revealed that Nigeria currently has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the developing world. Available statistics indicate that Nigeria accounts for nearly 10% of current estimates of global maternal deaths. Following discussions among the group, it was agreed that a multisectorial approach as well as the formation of partnership between all stakeholders holds the key to effective programming to reduce the high rate of maternal mortality and promote safe motherhood in Nigeria.

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