

Attendees:

Aisha Al Hajjar, Midwife Representing Saudi Arabia and Egypt
Nester Moyo – Midwife Representing ICM
Martha Bokosi - Midwife Representing ICM
Charlotte Renard – ICM Membership Coordinator
Pashtoon Zyaee - Midwife Representing ICM

A Skype meeting was held to establish relationship between ICM and Aisha Al Hajjar, as representative of developing midwifery programs and professional bodies in Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Current State of Midwifery in Saudi Arabia:

In the past (1990s), Saudi Arabia developed a direct-entry-midwifery program within the Ministry of Health that graduated around 2000 women with diploma of midwifery credentials. This program was transferred to the Ministry of Education at some point for development of a bachelor's degree but never came to fruition. The girls that graduated with diploma are mostly unemployed or have moved to other professions and many are disgruntled with the outcomes of their educational efforts towards midwifery, as employment opportunities and professional designation and respect were never realized.

There are currently midwives of various nationalities and backgrounds (mostly nurse-midwives) working in obstetric hospital units within various branches of government settings (MOH, National Guard, Security Forces), and perhaps a lesser amount scattered in various private sector hospitals. Current midwifery practice is under the supervision of an obstetric model and midwives are not autonomous practitioners; however, initial steps are now being taken to grow maternity care into a midwifery-led model for low-risk mothers, especially in the government sectors.

Saudi Arabia will establish a representative body for midwives, Saudi Midwifery Group (SMG) as a branch of the Saudi Obstetric Society very soon. Eventually, as this group and the profession grow, it is expected it will develop into an autonomous society, Saudi Midwifery Society (SMS).

The Ministries of Health and Education will be the venues for creation and implementation of midwifery curriculum development and recognition of midwifery as an autonomous professional credential. This has begun with selection of a curriculum team that will be responsible to review the direct entry midwifery program that had been established previously and bring it up to standards set by ICM.

Current State of Midwifery in Egypt:

In Egypt, there currently does not exist an official or recognized midwifery profession. There are infant stages of discussion being held to establish midwifery education, credentials, and autonomous professional recognition for a midwifery-led-model of care for low-risk mothers.

Support of ICM:

ICM will provide a template for the development of our midwifery groups' constitutions. They advised that we need to hold an initial meeting of interested parties and elect

representatives. They said a minimum of three members is required for consideration to join ICM and we need to ensure there is a designated professional title for midwives in our Ministries of Health.

ICM will also provide a template for developing a strategic plan for our midwifery groups. This will allow us to petition to organizations such, as UNFPA, for support. They will also provide introductions to UNFPA and other relative organizations.

ICM will provide their competency and curriculum development guides. They offered to review our curriculums once we have them developed to provide feedback and suggestions. They will work with us to understand the ICM competency and educational guidance documents and can provide support locally if needed, or suggest competent consultants for support.

ICM can also support with development of competency-based education programs and perhaps externship relationships for our students to experience clinical practice in an established midwifery model of care in neighboring ICM countries (3-4 month lead time required). They suggested providing experienced support of our efforts from ICM members from the MENA region.

ICM will support with connections to qualified faculty who may be interested to teach when we get to that point. They will also provide support with teacher preparation models to ensure that we are able to develop and groom teachers from within.

They suggested that all requests for support or follow up be directed to their Chief Executive who will disseminate tasks to the appropriate ICM team members.

There will be a conference put on by the UNFPA Arab States Regional Office in Morocco in October. It was commented that it would be nice if I were able to arrange with the coordinators to speak about the progress of our establishment of midwifery societies and membership in ICM at that time. ICM will connect me to the coordinators to explore possibilities and said that the date is not yet announced. They also suggested that an ICM representative could be invited to speak at any of our upcoming midwifery conferences.

Initial Next Steps:

Task	Responsible Party
Provide templates for midwifery group constitution, strategic plan, educational competencies, etc.	ICM Team
Connect Aisha to the ICM Chief Executive, UNFPA, MENA conference coordinators, and others relevant to our efforts.	ICM Team
Conduct an initial meeting of midwifery members to establish a governing board for our midwifery groups.	Aisha Al Hajjar
Work with ICM to ensure all steps to membership are met and officially apply to the ICM once our midwifery bodies are established.	Aisha Al Hajjar
Keep in touch with ICM as we review and develop our curriculum to ensure ICM competencies and standards are met.	Aisha Al Hajjar