

THE COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

“Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning and welcome. I am indeed grateful to have this opportunity to address issues regarding achievement of the millennium development goals, specifically on decreasing child mortality and improving maternal health. It is recognized that most developing countries are lagging towards achieving the Millennium goals specifically, listed as, 4 “Decreasing child mortality” and 5 “Improving maternal health” There are renewed Global efforts to address Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH). The University of Nairobi, Kenya’s leading institution of Higher learning is well placed to contribute to these efforts through enhanced research and policy information in MNCH.

Strengths of the University of Nairobi relating to MNCH

1. *Multidisciplinary nature:* This forms a basis for research along the continuum of MNCH. We have the entire repertoire of health workers involved in MNCH including Nurses, Public Health specialists, Pharmacists, Pediatricians, Obstetrician-gynaecologists.
2. *Strong Linkages with the Ministry of Health:* We have established linkages with colleagues in the Ministry of Health both centrally (Headquarters, Divisions of Reproductive and Child/Adolescent Health) as well as peripherally (County hospitals).
3. *Track record:* The University has successfully secured funding for various research and program activities directly related to MNCH. These include the Linked MNCH and the SIRCLE grants. These are supported by a host other programs including the Prime Kenya (programmatic), PACE and PACT-CoE.

Key directions/ Roles of the Proposed Center for MNCH

1. *To expand and sustain multidisciplinary training programs developed in the last 3 years:* These included courses in implementation sciences, program management and integrated MNCH. We’ll build on these courses and offer training to external institutions in Kenya and the region.
2. *To engage county facilities and communities in implementation science research relating to MNCH:* Ultimately the University will have greater impact on the MNCH indicators in the community.
3. *To inform policy:* We envision a center that will have well synthesized current statistics and information on best practices for MNCH in Kenya and the region for use by policy makers, researchers and academic institutions.
4. *To compete for future research and program grants:* The multidisciplinary nature of the Center will be a means of sustaining efforts to secure further funding for MNCH activities.

Once again Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you all to this event.

Thank you.”