Improving maternal health continues to be one of the targets in Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDG 3.1). SDGs 3.1 aims at reducing global maternal mortality to “less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030, with no individual country exceeding an MMR of 140 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.” Rapid progress in some countries demonstrates that when governments take strategic approaches to the safe motherhood challenges, changes can be made—to ensure the “Continuum of Care*” during the period from pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, to postpartum by deploying Skilled Birth Attendants (SBAs), ensuring adequate essential supplies, making family planning accessible and providing timely obstetric care as well as increasing health seeking attitudes among the people towards reproductive health and safe motherhood. Having above in mind, this program aims to strengthen strategies to reinforce “Continuum of Care” at the community level so as to contribute to the improvement of maternal health. Participants of the program are expected to develop an Action Plan to strengthen the existing strategies to ensure “Continuum of Care” at the community level during the program in Japan.

**Objective/Outcome**

To reinforce “Continuum of Care” at the community level so as to contribute to the improvement of maternal health.

**Outcome**

1. By identifying and analyzing the “gaps and bottlenecks” existing in the issues related to improvement of maternal health of the participant’s country (inception report).
2. To acquire better understanding on the interventions necessary to ensure “continuum of care” at the community level: (i) provision of information and quality care /client friendly services (ii) creation of supportive environment to link the community and health care services.
3. Formulation of the action plan (interim report): “Strategy to strengthen existing MNCH programs for continuum of care at the community level” that will contribute to the improvement of maternal health of the country.

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**Contents**

1. Formulation and submission of Inception Report to identify the existing issues/achievements/lessons learned surrounding SDG 3.1 (improvement of maternal health) of the participant’s country
2. Information provision and quality service delivery (community-based preventive care): “community-initiative” and empowering individuals, families and communities for improved access to information and services; ensuring quality of care, client friendly services, strengthening referral system.
3. Creation of supportive environment: linkage between communities and facilities by community health workers and volunteers/management and use of maternal, newborn and child health related indicators
4. Formulation of the Action plan (Interim Report): “Strategy to strengthen the continuum of care at the community level.”

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*This program incorporates “Active Learning” for Knowledge Co-creation (KCCP).*