

JICA support to the Humanization of Childbirth in Brazil

La JICA y la Humanización del parto y nacimiento en el Brasil

JICA Brazil¹

The history of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in supporting the Humanization of Childbirth starts at the beginning of the movement to humanize childbirth care in Brazil. Advances made in Brazil since the establishment of the Program of Integral Care for Women's Health (*Programa de Assistência Integral à Saúde da Mulher - PAISM*) and other official initiatives had the support of several international organizations, including JICA.

In 1995 the Project for the Improvement of Maternal and Child Health in the Northeastern Region of Brazil, known as "Projeto Luz" started in the state of Ceará. Its objective was to promote quality of care for women and newborns, starting with the establishment of a new model of humanized childbirth care in the state of Ceará ensued by its dissemination to many Brazilian states. "Projeto Luz" was also a great support to the initiatives of the Ministry of Health to implement the Program for Humanization of Prenatal and Childbirth (*Programa de Humanização do Pré-natal e Nascimento - PHPN*), and in November 2000, during the I International Conference on Humanization of Childbirth, held in Fortaleza, the program was nationally publicized.

During the years 2002 to 2007, JICA promoted a country focused training program

for 10 officers and 42 nurse-midwives in Japan, of which six midwives and one obstetrician were from Hospital Sofia Feldman. Furthermore, other project was developed jointly with the Department of Health of Sao Paulo Municipality. Besides, over 2,000 professionals in Brazil were trained by JICA alumni through seminars and workshops in several Brazilian states, especially in the Northern and Northeastern regions, as JICA's follow up cooperation. Such activities have contributed significantly to the Brazilian initiative of reducing infant and maternal mortality and lowering the high rates of caesarean sections.

Advances made in the field of humanization in Brazil gained prominence on the international scenario, calling attention of many countries and prompted the development of a humanized childbirth care model in Madagascar based on the experiences of the cooperation between Japan and Brazil.

Since then, JICA has supported the process of Hospital Sofia Feldman to become an international cooperation actor, an official reference for the Humanization of Childbirth in Brazil, by holding a joint cooperation project for the capacity development of professionals of Madagascar. In 2008 and 2009, a joint cooperation activity between JICA, the Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency – ABC, opened the opportunity for 22 Malagasy professionals to

¹ www.jica.go.jp/english/index.html

be trained in Hospital Sofia Feldman, and now they are currently and actively working in the improvement and promotion of humanized care in their country.

In 2010, JICA, Hospital Sofia Feldman and ABC signed a five years cooperation agreement to hold the International Course on Humanized Maternal and Child Care, aiming to contribute for the improvement and establishment of a model of humanized care for childbirth in Latin America and Portuguese Speaking African Countries.

The success of this partnership has gone beyond borders and reached the Asian Continent, when Cambodia expressed interest in implementing a training program in Brazil under the Trilateral Cooperation (Japan, Brazil, and Cambodia).

The perspective is to increase and strengthen the network for the humanization of childbirth and promote exchange of knowledge acquired by Brazil over the years to improve conditions of maternal and child care around the world.

JICA reasserts itself as a partner of Brazil and supports the initiatives of the Ministry of Health and its agencies by improving maternal health and reducing infant and maternal mortalities, thus contributing to the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5.

Artigo apresentado em 21/07/2010

Aprovado em 30/08/2010

Traduzido em 15/10/2010