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TOPIC: CONSTRAINTS AND BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF KMC IN CAMEROON

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**Summary**

Kangaroo Mother Care was developed in the Materno Infantil Institute of Bogota - Colombia in 1978 under the initiative of Professor Edgar Rey SANABRIA.

The kangaroo unit at Laquintinie Hospital in Douala was established in October 2000 after a preliminary phase of training in Bogota which took place from 1 to 30 June 2000. It became the Training Centre on KMC. We helped start training and implementation teams in Bamako, Mali, Central African Republic, Chad, Rwanda, Haiti. Plus local training in Bonassama, Dibombari, Obala, and the Hospital of the CNPS Yaounde.

The pilot center was established as a Centre of Excellence and since then we participated in a project of diffusion of the method under the leadership of a partnership: Grand Challenge Canada, Colombia Kangaroo Foundation, Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon, and Kangaroo Foundation Cameroon.

Constraints slow down changes, barriers stop progress. After sixteen years of practice, we did a retrospective study of the various actions undertaken to advance knowledge and dissemination of KMC, that contributes to the decrease in neonatal mortality and morbidity of children, for the millennium development goals.

Key words: Kangaroo Mother Care, constraints, barriers, scaling up, morbidity and mortality

**I - Constraints**:

* Multiple infrastructure within the institution for the care of the newborn;
* Organization of neonatology service: lack of concentration of neonatology services at a single point;
* Lack of infrastructure and equipment support for premature or low birth weight babies.
* **Other constraints**:
* Continuous availability of carrying material (lycra);
* Low social, economic and educational status of families;
* Traditions and cultural practices;
* Lack of dissemination of KMC.

**II - Barriers**

* Frequent turnover of trained personnel to other services and / or structures
* Peripheral Health Centres untrained for referral;
* Training on KMC is not integrated into the health school curriculum, medical and paramedical;
* Total lack of knowledge by the health staff on the care of premature and low birth weight babies, mother and family.