

CHAD LAUNCHES CARMMA

Chad officially launched the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) on the 15 December 2009.

The event was organized under the auspices of the First Lady, Her Excellency, Madame Hinda Deby Itno.

CARMMA is an initiative of African Union supported by several organizations and NGOs including UNFPA. It aims at sensitizing and promoting the Maputo Action Plan and accelerating the reduction of maternal mortality in Africa.

CARMMA aims also at resolving the alarming situation of the high level maternal mortality in most of the African countries.

In Chad, despite of a lot of efforts, the maternal mortality remains high with a ratio of 1,099 deaths for 100,000 live births.

The launching of CARMMA has mobilized all stake holders around this important issue, namely, the President of the Republic represented by the Prime Minister, the Head of the Government, the First Lady, Patron of the ceremony, the Honorable Speaker of the Parliament, members of the Government, Parliament, Social and Economic Council, Diplomatic Corps and International Organizations including the UN Agencies, and African Union.

One of the prominent facts was the strong representation of Civil Societies, such as Religious Leaders (Superior Council of Islamic Affairs, Network of Evangelical Churches and missionaries in CHAD, Episcopal Conference of Catholic Churches), women's Associations, midwives, youth associations, the Men's Group created to support the promotion of women's rights and the media.

The big hall of the Ministry of External Relations with the capacity of 1,500 seats could not contain all the attendees.

UNFPA was represented by the Deputy Executive Director, Madame Purnima Mane, and the Director



**Her Excellency Madame Hinda Déby Itno
Patron of the CARMMA**

of Africa Regional Office, Mr. Bunmi Makinwa.

The striking moments of the ceremony were the declarations of commitment by the high authorities of the country, the representatives of donors and UN Agencies and all the associations' officials and networks whose implication is crucial for the reduction of the level of maternal mortality. For a rigorous follow up of the commitments and the Action Plan which covers a period of three years, the First Lady solemnly nominated the first Chadian midwife, Madame Achta Toné Gossingar, as goodwill ambassador of CARMMA.

Among Key speakers of the ceremony, the Deputy Executive Director, Madame Purnima Mane, reaffirmed the firm commitment of UNFPA to support the efforts of Chad in terms of reduction of the maternal mortality.

By launching CARMMA officially, the First Lady, Madame Hinda Deby Itno, expressed her wish that CARMMA results in providing another image of Chad where fewer women will die while giving births.

She seized the occasion to renew her thankfulness to the UNFPA and African Union for their support in the preparation and the launching of this campaign.



**Madame Purnima Mane at the launching
ceremony of the CARMMA in Chad**



A view in the hall