Why midwives make a difference to women and newborn health

‘Strategic Conversations: The contribution of Nursing & Midwifery towards Global Health 2030’

Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres Conference
Glasgow, 29th July, 2016

Frances Day-Stirk
President
The Midwife Effect...

Maternal mortality in Sweden in relation to proportion of midwife-assisted home-birth 1861-99 - Uuf Hogberg

www.internationalmidwives.org
Midwives: A cost effective solution

One example - case study from Bangladesh (SoWMY 2014)

- 500 midwives were educated over four years at a cost of $5,300 per student each year.
- In 30-years: 500 midwives can save 36,178 lives.
- Community-based midwives decrease caesarean sections by 25 per cent.
- From a cost perspective, this is equivalent to $128.5 million over 30 years. 16-fold return on the investment in educating midwives.
- Educating midwives results in good value for money.

It is a “best buy” in primary health care
“Midwives make enormous contributions to the health of mothers and newborns and the well-being of entire communities. Access to quality health care is a basic human right. Greater investment in midwifery is key to making this right a reality for women everywhere”. The midwife is a “polymath”

Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director UNFPA

“We need midwives, we need midwives, we need midwives”.

Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General WHO
Global strategies...
# Midwifery2030

## A Pathway to Health

### Planning and Preparing means:
- delaying marriage
- completing secondary education
- providing comprehensive sexual education for boys and girls
- protecting yourself against HIV
- maintaining a good health and nutritional status
- planning pregnancies using modern contraceptive methods

### Ensuring a Healthy Start means:
- maintaining your health and preparing yourself for pregnancy, childbirth and the early months as a new family
- receiving at least four antenatal care visits, which include discussing birth preparedness and making an emergency plan
- demanding and receiving professional supportive and preventive midwifery care to help you and your baby stay healthy, and to deal with complications effectively, should they arise

### Challenge

Only 4 of the 73 countries have a midwifery workforce that is able to meet universal need for the 46 essential interventions for SRMNH.

### Solution

Midwives can provide 87% of the needed essential care for women and newborns if educated and regulated to international standards.

### Impact

Investing in midwives could give a 16-fold return on investment.

### Progress

Bangladesh is educating 500 midwives who can potentially care around 36,000 lives.

### What Makes This Possible?

1. All women of reproductive age, including adolescents, have universal access to midwifery care when needed.
2. Governments provide and are held accountable for a supportive policy environment.
3. Governments and health systems provide and are held accountable for a fully enabled environment.
4. Data collection and analysis are fully embedded in service delivery and development.
5. Midwifery care is prioritized in national health budgets; all women are given universal financial protection.
6. Midwifery care is delivered in collaborative practice with health-care professionals, associates and lay health workers.
7. First-level midwifery care is close to the woman and her family with a seamless transfer to next-level care.
8. The midwifery workforce is supported through quality education, regulation, and effective human and other resource management.
9. All health-care professionals provide and are enabled for delivering respectful quality care.
10. Professional associations provide leadership to their members to facilitate quality care provision.

### Supporting a Safe Beginning means:
- safely accessing midwifery services with the partner of your choice when labour starts
- finding respectful, supportive and preventive care, provided by competent midwives who have access to the equipment and supplies they need and receiving emergency obstetric care if required
- participating in decisions about how you and your baby are cared for
- having the privacy and space to experience birth without unnecessary disturbance and interventions
- being supported by a collaborative midwifery team in the event that you do need emergency obstetric care.

### Creating a Foundation for the Future means:
- starting to breastfeed immediately and being supported to continue breastfeeding as long as you wish
- being provided with information about and support in caring for your child in the first months and years of life
- receiving information about family planning so you can efficiently space your next pregnancy
- being supported by the midwifery team to access child and family health services and vaccination programmes at the appropriate time.

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THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIDWIFERY 2014

CHAPTER 3: MIDWIFERY2030
What prevents quality midwifery care?


www.internationalmidwives.org
The Age of upheaval?

Digital disruption

The quest for the next generation knowledge worker

Shifting demographics

Sustainability

Source: Hult CEO Global Trends Report
Who We Are

• 125 Member Associations
  • Affiliate Members now include regulatory bodies and regional associations

• 110 Countries

• 4 Regions
  • Africa
  • Asia-Pacific
  • Americas
  • Europe

Tools and resources

• Twinning Manual
• Dissemination manual
• Midwifery Regulation toolkit
• Updated essential competencies (2017)
• Midwifery Services Framework
1. Package of care - agree on the package of SRMNH care women and families receive and define the care that midwives will provide

2. How SRMNH services should be organised
   Agree how the service network should be organised to deliver midwife-led care with effective back-up that guarantees available, accessible, acceptable and high quality integrated care

3a. Develop the workforce
   Required number and distribution of midwives
   Recruitment, deployment, retention
   Education and regulation capacity, institutions, faculty, curricula
   Regulation, regulatory bodies, roles and responsibilities

3b. Create an enabling environment
   Facilities, commodities, equipment, transport, communication
   Mentorship and peer support, professional and career development
   Respectful working environment – safe environment, coordination of integrated care along the continuum

4. Test, evaluate, adapt, monitor
   Ongoing monitoring and evaluation
   Adaptation of midwifery services to local need & situation

Ongoing: Develop or strengthen the midwives association

Midwifery Services Framework
• Every **woman** should have access to a **midwife**

• Midwives care for women with **skill and compassion**

• The best partnership for a pregnant woman is with a **qualified midwife**
Thank you  ❖  Gracias  ❖  Merci

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