

Maternal, Newborn and Child Health



Becoming a mother and caring for young children is risky in developing countries like Malawi and Afghanistan where maternal and child mortality rates are among the highest in the world.

So much avoidable suffering occurs as a result of inadequate access to health services and a lack of knowledge about the importance of maternal health. In Malawi, over 600 women per 100,000 die from complications in childbirth and almost 400 women per 100,000 in Afghanistan. In Canada, the maternal mortality rate is around seven per 100,000. Reducing maternal mortality is a key factor ensuring children survive and lead healthy lives.

Support for PWS&D's maternal health program is helping overcome challenging circumstances, allowing more women and children to survive childbirth, lead healthier and stronger lives and make informed decisions that will improve their health, well-being and quality of life.

PWS&D, together with our partner organizations, is working to:

- Improve the quality of mother and child health services, increase the demand for these services and overcome cultural barriers that prevent women from receiving vital pre and postnatal care
- Scale up efforts to address sexual and reproductive health issues while empowering women and adolescent girls to take control of their reproductive health
- Upgrade health facilities—including outreach and mobile clinics—and make sure they are equipped with necessary tools and equipment
- Train birth attendants
- Ensure women can be referred to other medical facilities if needed, so that they receive appropriate care throughout their pregnancy
- Engage community members—especially men, elders and religious leaders—about the importance of maternal health, nutrition, family planning and the needs of mothers, newborns and children



Through improved health care services and changed community attitudes, women are seeking and receiving prenatal care and giving birth in proper health facilities—increasing the likelihood of safe pregnancy and delivery and improving the lives of children.

Your donations to this program are maximized through additional funds from the Government of Canada, through Global Affairs Canada.



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