

# NO WOMAN SHOULD DIE GIVING LIFE

## FACTS and FIGURES

## MISSION: TO SAVE THE LIVES OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

### THE CURRENT SITUATION

EVERY MINUTE, a woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth—adding up to more than 10 million over a generation. And when women die, children die or suffer.

- Every year, 529,000 women die from pregnancy-related causes.
- The risk of a woman dying as a result of pregnancy or childbirth during her lifetime is about 1 in 20 in Africa and about 1 in 2,800 in the industrial world.
- Adolescent girls under 20 are twice as likely to die from pregnancy as women in their 20's.
- Girls under 15 are five times as likely to die from maternal causes.
- Complications during pregnancy or childbearing are the leading cause of death for girls aged 15-19 in developing countries.
- Up to 15 million women suffer complications from pregnancy, which lead to illness and disability, loss of productivity, and tremendous suffering.
- Every year, more than 1 million children are left motherless and vulnerable due to maternal deaths.
- Children who have lost their mothers are up to 10 times more likely to die prematurely.

### BENEFITS OF ACTION

Ensuring access to voluntary family planning could reduce maternal deaths by a third, and child deaths by as much as 20 per cent. Ensuring skilled attendance at all births, backed by emergency obstetric care when needed, would reduce maternal deaths by about 75 per cent. Saving a mother's life usually means saving the life of her newborn and often those of her older children.

### MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5:

By 2015, to reduce maternal mortality to 75 per cent below 1990 levels and to achieve universal access to reproductive health.

### WHAT ROTARIANS CAN DO

WE KNOW what it takes to save women's lives: universal access to contraception, access to skilled care at the time of birth, and rapid access to quality emergency obstetric care when needed.

To save the lives of mothers and children, Rotary clubs and districts can take action—such as:

- Promote voluntary child-spacing programs and provide access to family planning.
- Support the training of midwives for local communities and refurbish and provide equipment for midwifery schools.
- Refurbish and provide medical equipment for clinics and support training for local health care providers, especially in remote rural areas.
- Help pregnant women get to the nearest clinic or hospital by improving communications and transport for remote rural communities.
- Support emergency obstetric care facilities.
- Assist girls to remain in school.
- Advocate against child marriages to prevent, among other things, obstetric fistula.

Rotary clubs and districts are encouraged to consult with UNFPA country representatives, who can help to identify local reproductive health needs, assist with technical advice and provide information and facts.

### LINKS:

UNFPA: No Woman Should Die Giving Life:  
<http://www.unfpa.org/safemotherhood>

Facts Sheet: UNFPA and Rotary International  
[http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdf/1/factsheet\\_unfpa\\_en.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdf/1/factsheet_unfpa_en.pdf)



United Nations Population Fund