These programs are funded by Merck for Mothers, Merck’s $500 million initiative to help create a world where no woman dies giving life. Merck for Mothers, is an initiative of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA.

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Responding to Local Maternal Health Needs

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**PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS**

**Democratic Republic of Congo** | Organización Navarra Ayuda entre los Pueblos is improving access to antenatal care and strengthening health worker’s ability to manage complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Medics Without Vacation is supporting medical missions to train local health workers on maternal health and safe motherhood practices.

**Egypt** | Pathfinder is increasing access to quality family planning (FP) services by improving health system capacity in select districts of Souhag Governorate, to increase demand for and availability of FP (including postpartum FP), with a focus on improving services for young married women and first-time parents.

**Ethiopia** | Doctors with Africa CUAMM is conducting community outreach in rural Ethiopia to increase demand for facility-based maternal healthcare and strengthening the referral network in case of obstetric emergencies.

**Kenya** | Jhpiego and the Kenya Red Cross Society are demonstrating an innovative, sustainable, and scalable model of contraceptive service delivery for adolescent girls and young women. Based on the success in Mandera and Migori counties, the Kenyan government has adopted the G-Amini Project model to provide youth-focused sexual and reproductive health services and increase access to contraception among young people.

**Lebanon** | The Lebanon Family Planning Association for Development and Family Empowerment is organizing trainings for midwives, field workers, and local leaders to improve safe motherhood practices.

**ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

| 546 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births (highest of any global region) |
| 45% reduction in maternal mortality since 1990 |
| 1 in 36 chance of a woman dying in pregnancy and childbirth |

*Specific Challenges: Shortage of skilled birth attendants, weakened healthcare systems, wide-spread poverty and the high burden of HIV/AIDS*

Data from the WHO’s Trends in Maternal Mortality Report (2015)

**ESTIMATED MATERNAL MORTALITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

| 78 deaths per 100,000 live births |
| 51% reduction in maternal mortality since 1990 |
| 1 in 300: chance of a woman dying in pregnancy and childbirth |

*Challenges: lack of awareness about maternal health issues, persistent gender inequalities, and internally displaced populations living in refugee camps*
Malawi | Concern Worldwide is supporting a program aimed to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity through a package of community and facility-based interventions. Mothers2mothers is addressing key issues including the delay of pregnant women seeking antenatal care and the lack of follow-up of pregnant women and mother-infant pairs in the continuum of HIV/AIDS care.

Mozambique | Comunità di Sant Egidio is integrating HIV/AIDS care with antenatal services in health facilities while also training healthcare workers to provide antenatal care, deliveries, and services to prevent maternal-child transmission of HIV.

Nigeria | Pathfinder International is tackling the two leading causes of maternal mortality in three states — Sokoto, Kebbi, and Zamfara — by advocating for improved quality of maternal healthcare and building the capacity of the government and service providers to support quality improvements. Pathfinder is also working in Cross River state as part of the public-private Saving Mothers, Giving Life (SMGL) partnership to reduce maternal mortality through a total market approach to strengthening maternal healthcare systems.

Rwanda | Health-e Foundation is improving reproductive and maternal health by increasing antenatal care attendance and strengthening the skills of community workers and midwives through electronic learning courses that are localized for the targeted communities.

Senegal | IntraHealth International is working with the Government of Senegal to scale-up an innovative supply chain model to eliminate stock-outs of contraceptives at health facilities nationwide.

South Africa | The Foundation for Professional Development is improving quality of emergency care for mothers experiencing obstetric emergencies and reducing maternal and neonatal mortality through standardized care and management of inter-facility maternal transportation.

South Africa | UNICEF is improving access to maternal health interventions by strengthening the capacity of national and provincial governments, as well as primary healthcare outreach teams.

South Africa | University of Pretoria is improving quality of obstetric care in midwife-led obstetric units and referral district hospitals by providing high-quality respectful clinical care to improve the acceptability and utilization of primary-level services.

Tanzania | The Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute is improving access to care and treatment for HIV-infected pregnant women, their partners, and their children living in the Kilombero district. UMATI is increasing the utilization of sexual and reproductive health services and safe motherhood services in four districts in Tanzania through community-based activities as well as training community health workers on obstetric care. The World Lung Foundation is developing an e-learning platform to support the delivery of comprehensive emergency obstetric care in rural and remote health facilities in Tanzania.

Turkey | The Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation is raising awareness about safe motherhood among health workers and local leaders through trainings and a home-visiting program. Additionally, The Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) is implementing a program over the next two years to strengthen healthcare services for women and children asylum seekers. The project uses a holistic approach to reduce maternal and infant mortality and childbirth complications, increase preventive healthcare services, ensure mothers and babies have access to prenatal and postnatal care, and provide counselling on safe motherhood.

Uganda | Population Services International — and its local affiliate, PACE — is improving the quality of private maternal healthcare by strengthening and expanding PACE’s ProFam franchise network of clinics.

Zambia | Africare/University of Michigan and the Zambia Center for Applied Health Research and Development/Boston University are designing new models of maternity homes, residences where pregnant women can stay until they go into labor, to help bring them closer to facility-based maternal health services.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Ethiopia | Maternity Foundation (Denmark) is rolling out the Safe Delivery App, an innovative mHealth tool to enhance antenatal care and emergency obstetric care in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Safe Delivery App has two components: 1) a text-based system to enhance antenatal care and skilled birth attendance by linking pregnant women to the health system; and 2) a tool to enhance the quality of emergency obstetric care by enabling birth attendants to better recognize and manage complications. New research results show the health worker skills in handling most common complications such as postpartum hemorrhage and newborn resuscitation increased by more than 100% after 12 months of using the app.

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