

The State of the World's Midwifery 2011

*"Delivering health,
saving lives"*

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Context

- The **State of the World's Midwifery** Report was presented at the **Triennial Congress of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)** in Durban, South Africa, 20 June 2011
- The Report **builds on prior initiatives** in support of strengthening midwifery worldwide, including the joint statement by WHO, ICM and FIGO on Making Pregnancy Safer (2004) and the Global Call to Action (2010)
- The **58 countries** that are the focus of the report include those identified in the UNSG's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health plus others with **high maternal and newborn mortality**

Why this report?

THE STATE OF THE
WORLD'S MIDWIFERY
2011

DELIVERING
HEALTH,
SAVING
LIVES

- 350,000 women **die** while pregnant or giving birth each year – as do two million newborns.
- Many of these lives could be **saved** if **skilled health care providers** were attending all deliveries.
- Follow-up to the **Global Symposium** on Strengthening Midwifery at *Women Deliver*, held in Washington in 2010



Aim of the report

1. Examine the **number and distribution** of health professionals involved in the delivery of midwifery services
2. Explore **challenges and emerging issues** related to health policies, education, regulation, professional associations and external aid, and that affect the quality of midwifery services
3. Consider **global issues** affecting human resources for health
4. Encourage **investments** in scaling-up of midwifery services, as well as “skilling-up” the providers

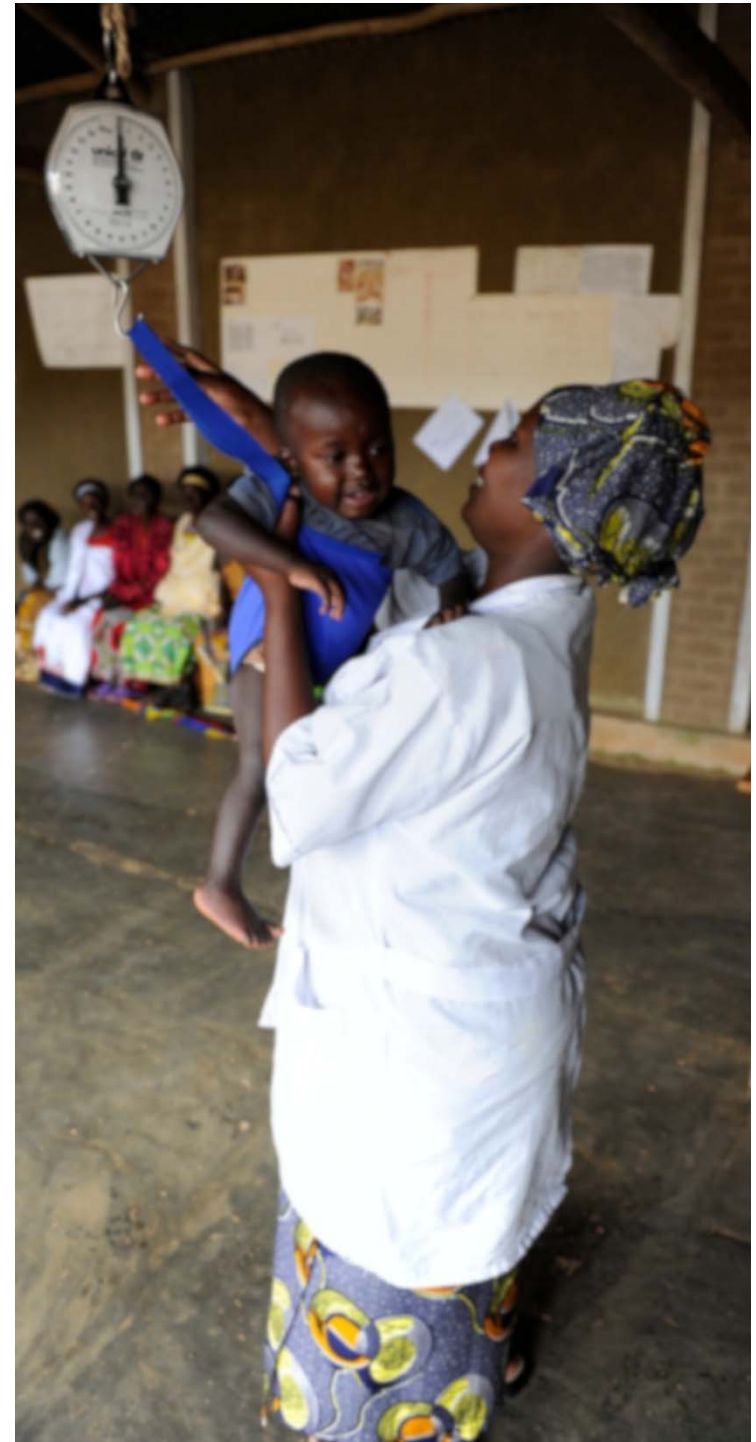


What are the main findings?

The *State of the World's Midwifery 2011*, confirms that pregnant women, mothers and babies are still dying, partly because the world lacks quality midwifery services, and that **without additional midwives, unnecessary deaths and disabilities will continue to be a fact of life.**

Key findings...

- Midwives are **distributed unevenly within countries**, so that those who need midwives the most – the poor in remote areas – are often the most underserved.
- Lack of standardization and regulation of midwifery services, insufficient midwifery education and training and **poor skill levels**.



Key findings... Con't

- Of the 58 countries surveyed, 20 have **enough** midwives, and could meet the MDG5 target **if the midwifery workforce were in the right place.**
- In the 38 remaining countries, at least **112,000 more midwives are needed** to achieve the MDG 5 target of 95 per cent coverage of births by a skilled attendant by 2015.

(2005 World Health Report estimated that, globally, **350,000 midwives must be trained by 2015** in addition to those already working on the ground)

Key findings... Con't.

- Among these 38 countries, 22 countries will have to **double** their midwifery workforce by 2015, seven will have to **triple** or **quadruple** it, and nine countries will need to increase midwives **by a factor of 6 to 15**.
- Midwives are not distributed evenly within countries: worst off are **rural and remote areas**.
- Working conditions in rural areas are difficult, so facilities **struggle to retain** midwives and other skilled health care staff.

Next steps?

Midwifery is an important profession, one that saves lives, and **Governments** should **recognize** it as such and work to ensure that:

- ✓ Trained midwives are **adequately distributed** across countries
- ✓ proper **standards and regulation** are in place and that education **curricula** are harmonized and modernized
- ✓ every effort is made **to retain midwives** in the country and in the areas where they are needed most.

Recommended actions

- The report makes specific recommendations to **governments, regulatory bodies, educational institutions, professional associations** to help remedy these problems and reinforce the status of midwifery in the 58 countries surveyed.
- It also recommends specific actions for **international organizations, global partnerships, donors and NGOs**

Recommended actions (for people like us...)

- Support efforts to **scale-up midwifery services and measure results**
- Advocate for inclusion of **stronger midwifery services** with improved competencies and quality of care in health sector strategies, policies and plans
- Support **quality and capacity of training institutions**
- Provide financial and in-kind support for **midwives professional associations** and **exchanges of knowledge and good practices**
- Encourage a **global agenda for midwifery research** and support its implementation at country level

“Delivering health, saving lives”

www.stateoftheworldsmidwifery.com



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