

International Midwives Day-May 5, 2017: The theme of 2017 is “Midwives-Making a Difference in the World”

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Abstract

Mothers are important for the development of their children. To raise healthy children healthy mothers are of importance. Unfortunately in many developing countries still too many women die during pregnancy or child birth. Midwives are truly the unsung heroines of the challenge to reduce the risks of the women face in bringing for the life. 5th of May was established to be celebrated as a day to honour the midwives for their big contribution towards the health of their nation.

Keywords: Midwife-Literally Means with Woman; ICM-International Confederation of Midwives; IDM – International Confederation of Midwife; UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund; SOWMY – State of the Worlds Midwifery.

Mother

Mothers are important for the development of their children and therefore also for the future generation of a country. To raise healthy children, healthy mothers are of importance.

Maternal Mortality is a Neglected Tragedy. It has been neglected because who suffer are neglected people with least power & influence. They are poor, the rural peasant's and above all, women -Mahler, 1987.

Maternal Mortality

- Unfortunately in many developing countries maternal health is not always natural. Still too many women die during pregnancy or childbirth. Pregnancy and Child birth is perhaps the riskiest and most miraculous time in a woman's life.
- Every year, approximately 3, 50,000 women die each year as a result of preventable pregnancy and childbirth complications.
- Up to two million new-born's die within the first day of life, and there are 2.6 million stillbirths.
- Thousands more women live with the often debilitating consequences of pregnancy.

Maternal Mortality is not about Statistics. It's about women with names, faces -faces seen with agony, distress, despair -faces that continue to live in the memories and haunt our dreams. Not because these women died in their prime lives, die at a time of expectation and joy it's a terrible way to die.

But above all

.....because almost every maternal death is an event that could be avoided and should never have been allowed to happen-Dr. Mohamoudfathalla Assuit University, Egypt.

- Majority of maternal and new-born deaths and morbidity occur in countries marked by poverty.

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- The loss of life is driven by Gender inequality and bigotry Resulting in the most human of tragedies: death and injury in the midst of life’s reproduction.
- When mothers and new-borns die, approximately US\$15.5 billion in potential productivity is lost each year.
- So Maternal death is not merely a health issue, but a social injustice also.

Midwife

Midwives are truly the unsung heroines of the challenge to reduce the risks of the women face in bringing forth life.

The word *midwife* literally means ‘with woman’. Based on the origins of this ancient profession the description of the midwife’s practice, as defined by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), begins as follows:

“The midwife is recognised as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct births on the midwife’s own responsibility and to provide care for the newborn and the infant.”

The ICM definition notes that the midwife is a person who has successfully completed an education programme that is recognized in the country in which they are located and that is based on the ICM Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice and the framework of the ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Education; who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery and use the title ‘midwife’; and who demonstrates competency in the practice of midwifery.

International Midwives Day

There is an occasion for every midwife to think about the many others in the profession, to make new contacts within and outside midwifery and to widen the knowledge of what midwives do for the world. The 5th of May is internationally established as the day for recognizing the work of midwives.

International Midwives Day History

International Midwives Day is celebrated every year on international level to commemorate and increase the awareness about the contribution of the

midwives towards the patients all over the world. 5th of May was established to be celebrated as a day to honour the midwives for their big contribution towards the health of their nations. It is celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy in more than 50 countries around the world.

First International Day of the Midwife (IDM) was launched and celebrated on 5th of May in the year 1991 using the theme “Towards safe birth for all by the year 2000”. The day was established to be celebrated on annual basis to fulfil the demand of following theme “The World Needs Midwives Now More Than Ever”.

International Midwives Day was decided celebrating annually in the conference of International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), Netherlands in 1987. ICM affiliates midwives from all the organizations to its ICM express in order to develop harmony and improve the knowledge and skills of all the midwives. Varieties of events are organized during the celebration in order to support the “Safe Motherhood” as well as promote the midwifery profession throughout the world by increasing the awareness about their contributions.

International Midwives Day Theme

- The theme of 2017 is “Midwives: Making a difference in the world”.
- The theme of 2016 was “Women and Newborns: The Heart of Midwifery”.
- The theme of 2015 was “Midwives: for a better tomorrow”.
- The theme of 2014 was “Midwives changing the world one family at a time”.
- The theme of 2013 was “The world needs midwives now more than ever!/Midwives Save Lives”.
- The theme of 2012 was “The World Needs Midwives Now More Than Ever”.
- The theme of 2011 was “The first 5km of the long Walk to Durban in South”.
- The theme of 2010 was “The World Needs Midwives Now More Than Ever”.
- The theme of 2009 was “The World Needs Midwives More Than Ever”.
- The theme of 2008 was “Healthy Families – the Key to the Future”.
- The theme of 2007 was “Midwives reach out to women – wherever they live”
- The theme of 2006 was “The World Needs

Midwives – Now More Than Ever”.

- The theme of 2005 was “The World Needs Midwives – Now More Than Ever”.
- The theme of 2004 was “Midwives: a voice for healthy families”.
- The theme of 2003 was “Leadership and key partnerships in midwifery actions achieve improved health for mothers and newborns”.
- The theme of 2002 was “The World Needs Midwives – Now More Than Ever”.
- The theme of 2001 was “The World Needs Midwives – Now More Than Ever”.
- The theme of 2000 was “The World Needs Midwives – Now More Than Ever”.

The theme of 2017 is “Midwives: Making a Difference in the World”

Midwives are truly the unsung heroines of the challenge to reduce the risks of the women face in bringing forth life.

- Now, armed with better skills and training, midwives are increasingly able to deal with life-threatening emergencies and are playing a critical role in making motherhood safer around the world.
- It is estimated that trained, well-equipped and supported midwives could save the lives of more than 200,000 women each year, and perhaps ten times that many infants.
- But midwives do much more than deliver babies: Pregnancy, whether planned or unintended, is often a key entry-point into the health system. And midwives can provide a welcoming gateway.
- They often introduce women to the healthcare system and ensure that women and their babies receive a continuum of skilled care during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the important days and weeks after birth.
- Midwives care for mothers before and after childbirth, they protect the health of new-borns.
- They know when to call for emergency help when complications arise.
- They prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.
- Midwives offer family planning counselling.

Prevents 54 million unintended pregnancies in developing countries 80% of unintended pregnancies

in developing countries occur to women who have an unmet need for contraception 47 thousand women die each year because of unsafe abortion; 13% of all maternal deaths. Reduces Adolescent Pregnancies

Contributions by International Associations

- It is on the basis of this rich calculus that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) understands there is no better health investment than in the spread, support, deepening and valuing of midwifery.
- In 2008, UNFPA partnered with the International Confederation of Midwives to strengthen midwifery. Five years later, the combined work is operational across 30 countries.
- At the 2011 ICM World Congress in Durban, 30 partners with UNFPA launched the first ever State of the World’s Midwifery Report (SOW MY).
- Over 35 governments have stood up to its challenge with commitments to strengthen their midwifery workforces, under the Secretary General’s “Every Woman Every Child Strategy.”

Beyond the MDGS 2015. The World Health Organization, UN agencies and other global partners identified that midwives are the key to achieving reductions in maternal and new-born deaths and disabilities globally.

Conclusion

The locations and levels of maternal mortality indicate serious inequalities throughout the world. Midwives are committed to tackle this inequality globally.

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