



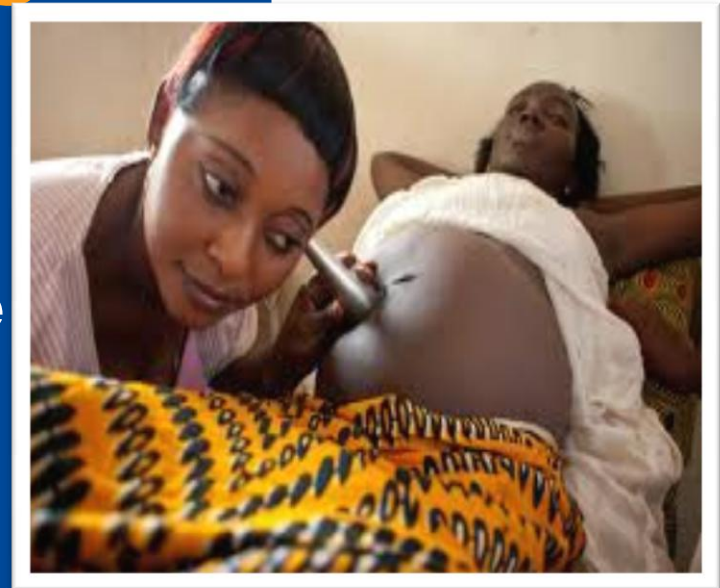
International
Confederation
of Midwives

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

Midwives of Africa: catching the waves of opportunity

3rd ICM African Region Conference
Nairobi, Kenya July 2013

Frances Day-Stirk
President



Once you go you know



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Women in Africa have the highest risk of dying in pregnancy and childbirth in the world – and the lowest proportion of births attended by skilled health workers.

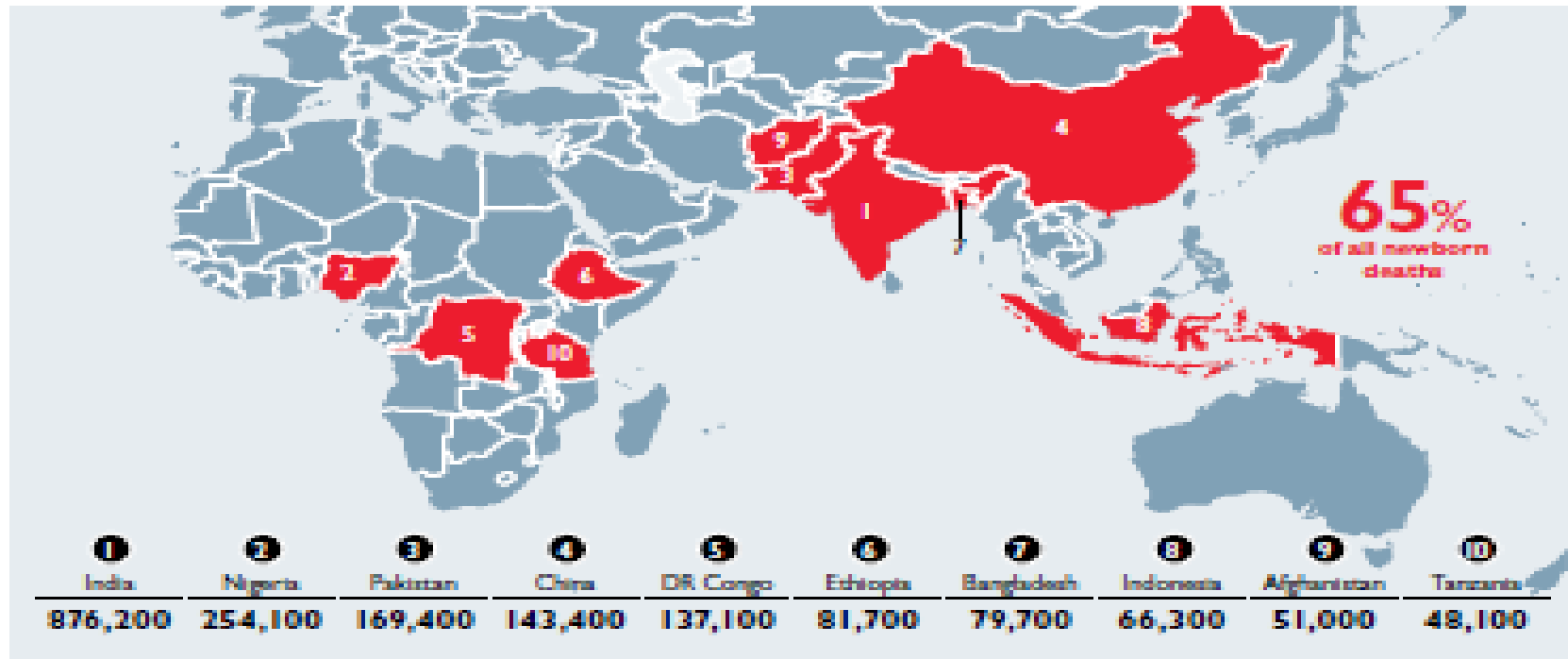
In some countries the risk is as high as 1 in 14 across her lifetime; she is more likely to die in childbirth than to go to secondary school. The risk is

or the poorest
Data source:
UNFP
A/World Bank.
Trends in Maternal
mortality
1990 to 2008 (2010)





MOST NEWBORN DEATHS OCCUR IN JUST 10 COUNTRIES



Nearly two-thirds of all newborn deaths (2 million out of 3 million each year) occur in just 10 countries. Many of these countries have very large populations (such as China and Indonesia) and others have high percentages of newborns dying (Afghanistan, DR Congo, Ethiopia and Tanzania). Several have both large populations and high newborn mortality rates (Bangladesh, India, Nigeria and Pakistan). These are places where mothers are also at high

risk of death during pregnancy and childbirth – 59 percent of maternal deaths occur in these same 10 countries.

Data sources: Healthy Newborn Network (data compiled for *A Decade of Change for Newborn Survival, Policy and Programmes (2000-2010): A Multi-Country Evaluation of Progress Towards Scale*) and UNICEF Global Databases.

Source: State of the World’s Mothers Report 2013

ICM Three Pillars

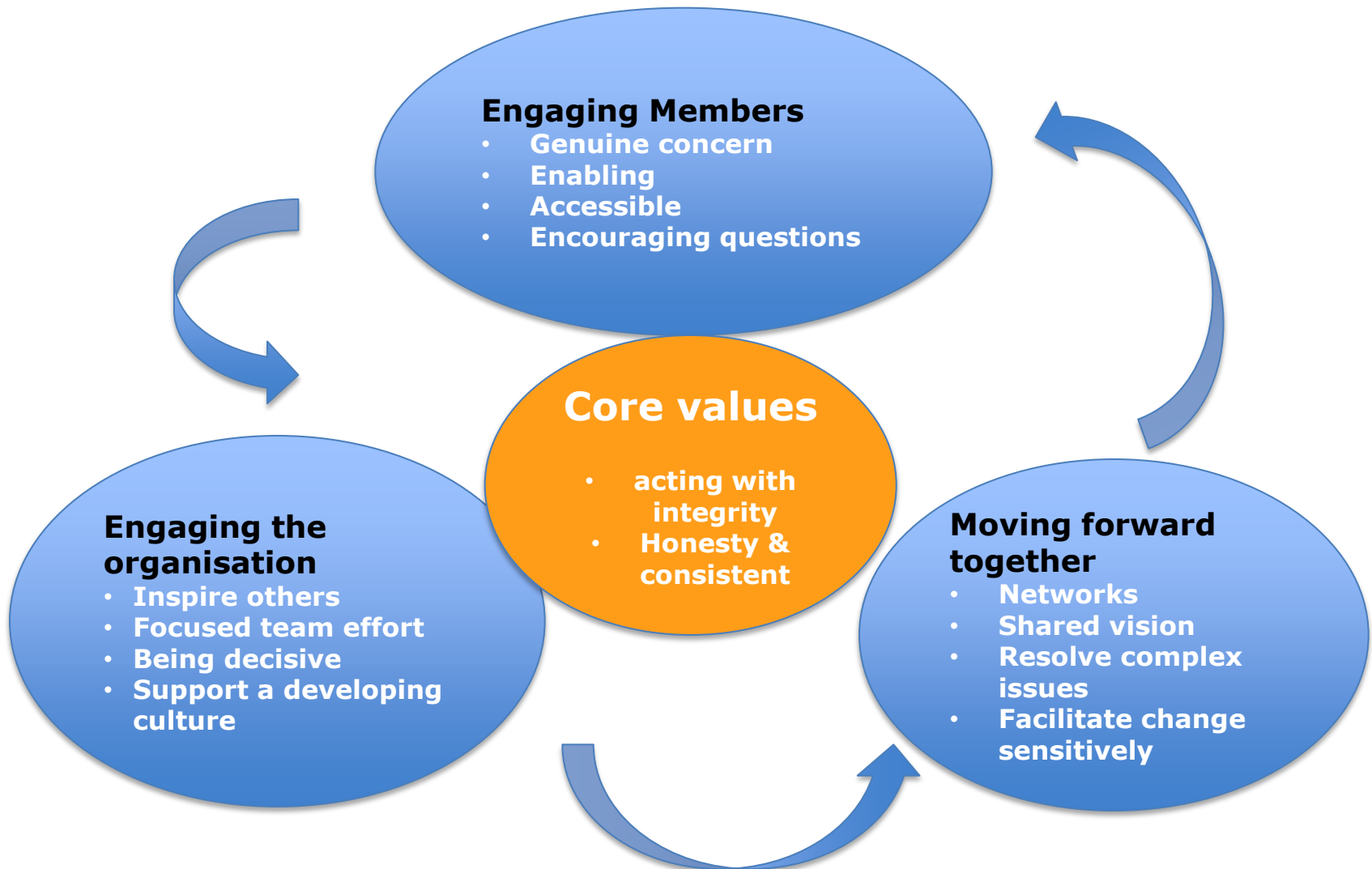




**“Education is
the most powerful
weapon which you
can use to change the world”.**

Nelson Mandela

Leadership: Servant & Partner



Second Global Midwifery Symposium Joint Declaration May 2013



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of Midwives

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

- Invest...
- Educate...
- Deploy in the right places...
- Be woman centred...
- Regulate...
- Support...
- Improve the evidence...



**Second Global Midwifery Symposium
Strengthening Quality Midwifery Care:
Making Strides, Addressing Challenges**
26-27 May 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

By 2015, the lives of 3.6 million women and newborn could be saved by a skilled, competent midwife, supported by functional services – averting two thirds of maternal and newborn deaths.

We, the Global Midwifery Symposium participants declare our commitment to champion the provision of widely available, accessible, acceptable and high quality midwifery services – the theme for the State of the World's Midwifery 2014. To optimise reproductive, maternal and newborn health outcomes, we call upon governments, public and private sector partners to:

- **Invest.** Increase financial and in-kind investments in midwives, the midwifery workforce and midwifery services in order to accelerate progress towards the MDGs and the post 2015 development agenda on health and to expand universal access to reproductive health, including family planning
- **Educate.** Invest in competency-based, high quality, technologically innovative education programs and infrastructure that result in fully skilled and competent midwives
- **Deploy in the right places.** Ensure that midwives are effectively recruited, deployed, and supported to work in the communities that need them most
- **Be woman centred.** Work with care providers, women and communities to promote and provide sensitive, respectful, women-centred care in communities and facilities
- **Regulate.** Ensure regulation and licensing so that midwives are authorized and supported to provide the full range of evidence-based maternal and newborn health services that they are skilled and competent to deliver
- **Support.** Support midwives' associations, nurses and midwives associations and other organizations at the national, regional and international levels that advocate for and strengthen midwifery services and practice
- **Improve the evidence.** Enhance data collection and the evidence-base for midwifery and identify actions to address the context-specific barriers to midwifery services within countries

Since 2010, 46 lower income countries have pledged to increase coverage of midwifery services and one in three focus on midwives as part of their commitments to the UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and the *Every Woman Every Child* movement. Significant progress has been made toward meeting MDG 4 and 5, and 6 but sustained momentum is required to end preventable deaths of women and their newborn.



The Midwife Effect

I found – and it was not a finding I had expected – that wherever (there was) a system of maternal care . . . based on trained . . . and respected midwives . . . maternal mortality was at its lowest.

I cannot think of an exception to that rule.
(Loudon 1992)



The Midwife Effect



Midwives can prevent up to 60% of maternal deaths when they are educated, competent and authorized to practice to the full scope – during pregnancy, childbirth and the post-partum period – identify and immediately manage complications in pregnancy and make suitable and timely referrals. (UNFPA)

Midwives are an investment in the health of mothers, their newborn, the community and a nation (Helen de Pinho)

Africa Unite



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of Midwives

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

Afri - Africa unite, yeah!

**Unite for the benefit (Africa unite) for the benefit
of your people!**

Unite for it's later (Africa unite) than you think!

**Unite for the benefit (Africa unite) of your
children!**

Unite for it's later (Africa uniting) than you think!

Africa awaits (Africa unite) it's creators!

Africa awaiting (Africa uniting) it's Creator!

**Africa, you're my (Africa unite) forefather
cornerstone!**

Unite for the *Mothers* (Africa uniting) *of your land*

Unite for the *newborns* (Africa unite) a yard!

Bob Marley

African Midwives Unite

How good and how pleasant it would be
before God and man

To see the unification of all midwives, all
sage-femmes yeah.

As it's been said a'ready, let it be done!

Asanta sana Thank you

International Confederation of Midwives

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La Confédération internationale des sages-femmes
Confederación Internacional de Matronas