

WOMEN DELIVER

delivering SOLUTIONS for girls and women

Women deliver enormous social and economic benefits for their families, communities, and nations. Investing to improve maternal health and save women's lives – and achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 – is the right thing to do. It is also sound economics.

WOMEN'S WELL-BEING DETERMINES A COUNTRY'S WELL-BEING.

- Women drive economic development: they operate the majority of small businesses and farms in developing countries.
- Women's work makes everyone more productive: more of their income goes for food, medicine, education, and other family needs.
- Women contribute to economic growth: their unpaid work at home and on the farm equals about $\frac{1}{3}$ of world GDP.
- When women survive, families thrive.

MATERNAL DEATHS ARE PREVENTABLE.

There is global consensus on these cost-effective solutions:

- Family planning programs
- Skilled care for mothers and newborns before, during, and after childbirth, including emergency obstetric care
- Safe abortion, when and where legal

Delivering these solutions requires that we:

- Prioritize young people
- Strengthen national health systems that deliver for women
- Advance and protect human rights for girls and women

THESE TRAGIC FACTS CAN BE CHANGED.

In developing countries each year...

- 215 million women who want to avoid pregnancy do not use an effective method of contraception.
- Pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death and disability for young women.
- Nearly half of all pregnant women do not receive skilled care.
- About 20 million women have unsafe abortions.
- 10 to 15 million women suffer severe or long-lasting illnesses or disabilities caused by complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

INVESTING IN WOMEN MAKES SENSE RIGHT NOW, AND IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR FUTURE.

Investing another \$12 billion a year (for a total of \$24 billion) would fulfill the unmet need for family planning and provide every woman with the recommended standard of maternal and newborn care. The results:

- Reducing unintended pregnancies by more than $\frac{2}{3}$
- Preventing 70% of maternal deaths
- Averting 44% of newborn deaths
- Reducing unsafe abortion by 73%
- Cutting disability-adjusted life years lost to pregnancy-related illness and premature death by 66%

Investing in women brings positive returns. It would also:

- Return as much as US \$15 billion dollars in productivity, now lost to maternal and newborn death
- Improve public health for all by developing strong, accessible health systems
- Prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce HIV and other sexually transmitted infections
- Empower girls and women with greater opportunity for education and employment
- Strengthen families, communities, economies, nations, and our world