



5 TRAGIC FACTS ABOUT BEING PREGNANT AND POOR

Worldwide, about 140 million women give birth each year, yet only half of the women in developing regions receive the recommended amount of healthcare they need.

A woman's lifetime risk of dying due to pregnancy related causes is 1 in 3,300 in high-income countries, in contrast to 1 in 41 in low-income countries.

Factors such as poverty, distance to healthcare services, lack of awareness, inadequate services and cultural practices can prevent women from receiving or seeking care during pregnancy and childbirth.

And while the worldwide maternal mortality rate has drastically improved in the last two decades, it is still unacceptably high. The majority of maternal deaths in developing countries could be avoided with access to proper medical care and screening.

HERE ARE FIVE REASONS WHY MORE STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE TO BETTER SUPPORT MOTHERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:



1

Every day, nearly 830 women die due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

In 2015 alone, 303,000 mothers died because of complications during pregnancy or childbirth.

In sub-Saharan Africa, where the maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in the world, a woman has a 1-in-16 chance of dying while giving birth.

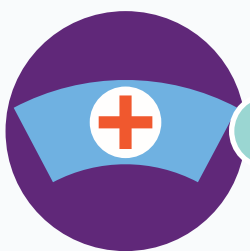


2

Nearly 21 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19, and 2 millions girls under the age of 15, become pregnant each year in developing regions.

Every day in developing countries, 20,000 girls under 18 years of age give birth, with 95 percent of the world's births to adolescents (girls aged 15-19) taking place in low and middle-income countries. A pregnant young woman living in poverty is at higher risk of dropping out of school and becomes more vulnerable to nutritional deficiencies, health complications and social exclusion.

In low and middle-income countries, complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among girls who are the ages 15-19.



3

The majority of maternal deaths CAN be prevented.

Every single day, about 830 women die from preventable causes connected to pregnancy and childbirth.

With access to reliable healthcare solutions, however, lives can be saved. Key factors in preventing maternal deaths are having skilled medical care during childbirth as well as having adequate access to emergency obstetric care should complications arise.



4

Top causes of death during pregnancy and childbirth are:

The main reasons women die in pregnancy and childbirth are due to severe bleeding, infections, hypertensive disorders such as pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, and medical complications including cardiac disease, diabetes, or HIV/AIDS.

Without adequate healthcare, even a healthy mother can hemorrhage after delivery if symptoms are not monitored and quickly addressed.



5

99% of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries.

In developing nations, the second leading cause of death among women of reproductive age is attributed to conditions related to pregnancy and childbirth (behind HIV/AIDS). And complications in pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among adolescent girls in developing countries.

Disadvantaged women in remote areas are the least likely to receive adequate healthcare, especially in regions with low numbers of skilled health workers, such as in sub-Saharan Africa. Of the 800 women who die DAILY from giving birth, 500 live in that region.