The Changing Face of Childbirth
Are the needs of diverse populations being met?

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RCM Student Midwives' Conference

16 November 2010

The global context

New global estimates
385,000 maternal deaths each year
down from 500,000+

But still:

- Up to 20 times more women suffer maternal morbidity
- 4 million newborns deaths each year
- 98% deaths in developing countries
- Majority are preventable, many through simple, low cost interventions

What does this mean for poor, marginalised women and their babies?

India – 2008 data

Maternal mortality rate	450/100,000 (2005)
Neonatal mortality rate	37/1,000 live births
Unmet need for FP	13%
Antenatal care	Increased from 62% (1993) to 74%
4 or more ANC visits	37%
Skilled attendance at delivery	Increased from 34% (1993) to 47%
Greatest cause of maternal death	Haemhorrage - @ 35%

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST (UK)

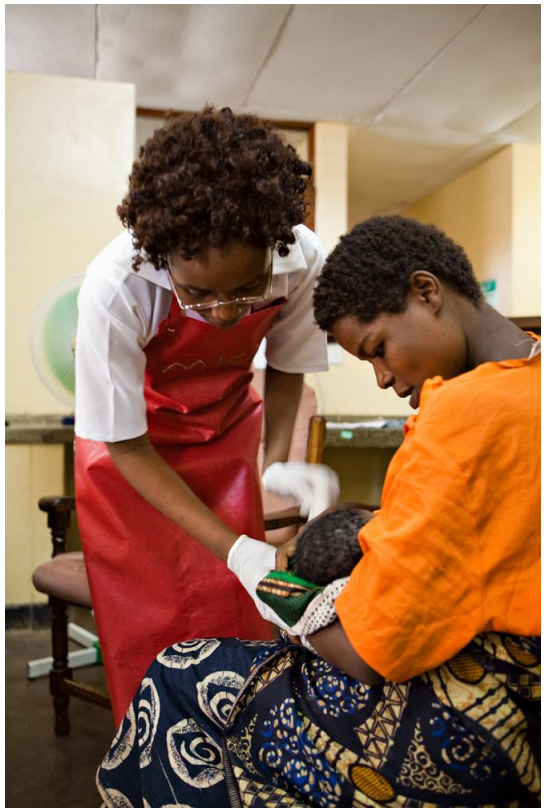
Bangladesh – 2008 data

Maternal mortality rate	570/100,000 (2005)
Neonatal mortality rate	33/1,000 live births
Unmet need for FP	17%
Antenatal care	Increased from 26% (1993) to 51%
4 or more ANC visits	21%
Skilled attendance at delivery	Increased from 10% (1993) to 18%
Greatest cause of maternal death	Haemhorrage - @ 35%

Malawi – 2008 data

Maternal mortality rate	1,100/100,000 (2005)*
Neonatal mortality rate	29/1,000 live births
Unmet need for FP	28% (2004)
Antenatal care	Increased from 90% (1993) to 92% (though dropped from 94% in 2002)
4 or more ANC visits	57%
Skilled attendance at delivery	Dropped from 55% (1993) to 54% (though rose to 61% in 2002)
Greatest cause of maternal death	Haemhorrage - @ 34%

How Women and Children First is helping make changes for mothers and babies

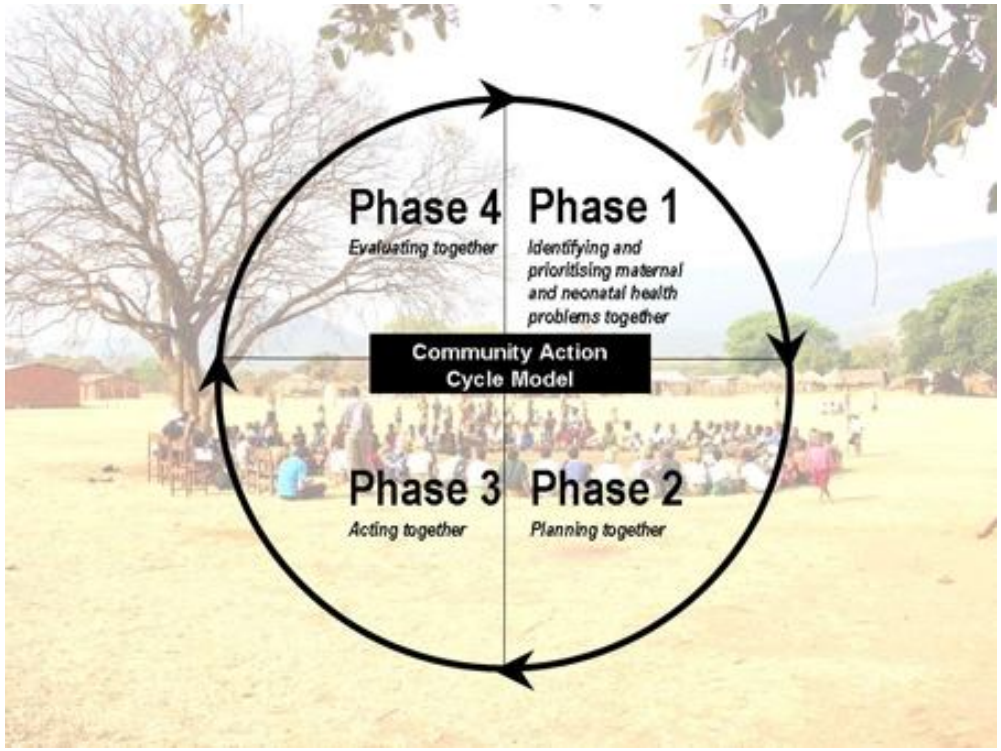


Women's Groups

- Groups of 15-20 women
- Meet on a monthly basis
- Each group is supported by a trained facilitator
- Facilitator supports the group through a community action cycle model

Participatory Action Cycle Model

Phase 1
Identify and prioritise key health problems
Phase 2
Design strategies to address prioritised problems
Phase 3
Implement the strategies
Phase 4
Evaluate the strategies



After this the community may decide to start the cycle again

Results – WCF and other programmes

Nepal	**•30% reduction in NMR** **•Higher reduction in MMR**
India	•45% reduction in NMR •57% reduction in moderate maternal depression
Bangladesh	•No woman in a WG has died since 2006 •Measurable improvements in maternal and newborn care in the community
Malawi	•20% reduction in NMR one year before project end date

Thank you!

www.wcf-uk.org