HEALTH WORKERS CAN CHANGE HISTORY

100TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY – 8 MARCH 2011

IN PARTS OF THE WORLD, CHILDBIRTH IS SAFER THAN EVER
IN OTHERS, WOMEN’S CHANCES HAVEN’T IMPROVED FOR A CENTURY

WE MUST FILL THE HEALTH WORKER GAP

The skills gap

Trained health workers are key to preventing maternal deaths. But they must be well trained, paid, supervised and supported by a health system which can quickly provide obstetric care in emergencies. All women – especially the poor and excluded – deserve quality professional care, without barriers of cost.

Source: WHO Proportion of births attended by a skilled health worker. Estimates by country, 2008

*Trained health workers include doctors, midwives, nurses and in some cases country-specific cadres such as auxiliary nurse midwives.

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In conjunction with GHP3 (Univ. of Southampton), Immpact (Univ. of Aberdeen)
PROMISES PROMISES

In 2010 the international community pledged $40bn to improve maternal, newborn and child health over the next five years. This is a good start, but many more governments must also commit. These commitments must be turned into action by training and employing health workers and strengthening health systems.

3.5 million additional health workers are needed to fill the health worker gap for mothers and children.

The government of CANADA, as Chair of the G8 in June 2010, committed C$1 billion in new and additional funding, and also renewed existing resources of C$1.75 billion, providing a total of C$2.85 billion for maternal, newborn and child health by 2015.

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France hosts the next G8/G20 in 2011; how will they contribute and hold other donors to account?

The government of CHINA pledged to increase investment in women and children’s health, as well as providing basic health care insurance for all.

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India has the highest number of maternal deaths of any nation in the world.

Africa has the highest maternal death rates in the world.

Join the growing global movement to make sure that promises to the world’s women are honoured in full.

For more information about the White Ribbon Alliance Atlas of Birth go to www.atlasofbirth.com

Source: Commitments document from The Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, September 2010