We must fill the health worker gap

Trained health workers are key to preventing maternal death.

The skills gap

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In Ethiopia only 6% of all women deliver with a skilled health worker.

In Bangladesh, only 3% of the poorest women deliver with a skilled health worker compared to 40% of the most wealthy women.

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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.

The government of the UK will double its annual support for maternal, newborn and child health by 2012, providing an annual average of US$1.1 billion to 2015.

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

The government of BANGLADESH promises 3000 more health workers.

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

The government of BURKINA FASO has reached the Abuja Target of 15% of government spending for health and pledges to maintain this spending level.

The government of KENYA has pledged to recruit an additional 20,000 primary health care workers and to establish 210 centres of excellence providing health services to an additional 1.5 million women and 1.5 million children.

The government of INDIA has pledged to improve health services in the 235 districts that account for nearly 70% of all infant and maternal deaths.

Africa has the highest maternal death rates in the world.

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

JOIN THE GROWING GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO MAKE SURE THAT PROMISES TO THE WORLD’S WOMEN ARE HONOURS 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