



Photo & Caption

Logistics Plays Key Role in Zambia's Effort to Reduce Maternal Mortality



USAID | DELIVER PROJECT 2010

At the CARMMA launch event, Bibian Simbeya, a USAID | DELIVER PROJECT public health logistics advisor, greets Zambian President Rupiah Banda and highlights the importance of logistics in reducing maternal mortality.

JUNE 2010

This publication was produced for review by the U.S. Agency for International Development. It was prepared by the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, Task Order I.

African countries have some of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. In Zambia, eight women die each day from complications related to pregnancy and child birth—a maternal mortality ratio of 591 per 100,000 live births. Through a continent-wide campaign, Zambia is combating these unnecessary deaths with renewed effort.

On June 12, 2010, the Zambia Ministry of Health (MOH) launched the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality (CARMMA) under the theme, “no woman should die while giving life.”

As a partner of the MOH, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT plays a vital role in the country’s health system by strengthening the supply chain. Health facilities, and the women they serve, depend on the availability of medicines and equipment for life-saving procedures in maternal health.

Zambian President Rupiah Banda, who oversaw the CARMMA launch event, listened as a USAID | DELIVER PROJECT public health logistics advisor described the project’s mandate and how product availability can help reduce both maternal and newborn mortality in Zambia.

The project assisted CARMMA in planning the opening campaign event in Lusaka and exhibited materials on health logistics as part of the program. First Lady Tandiwe Banda asked the team to provide all the materials about the project to her special aide.

CARMMA is an international effort that was first launched at the African Union meeting in Addis Ababa in May 2009.

The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, Task Order 1, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and implemented by John Snow, Inc. The project improves essential health commodity supply chains by strengthening logistics management information systems, streamlining distribution systems, identifying financial resources for procurement and supply chain operations, and enhancing forecasting and procurement planning. The project also encourages policymakers and donors to support logistics as a critical factor in the overall success of their health care mandates.

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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