



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



*A woman and her newborn baby. In Mwanza, she benefitted from the 24 hour hotline when she went into labor.
Photo: Sala Lewis/Vodafone Foundation*

TANZANIA

MOBILIZING MATERNAL HEALTH

Mobilizing Maternal Health is a public private partnership that reduces maternal mortality and morbidity by addressing three key delays to providing quality maternal health care in Tanzania. These include: (a) the ability of women and health care workers to recognize danger signs and seek timely prenatal/postnatal health services, (b) availability of transportation, especially for those requiring emergency obstetric care, and (c) lack of adequately staffed and equipped facilities able to promptly respond to the needs of pregnant women, particularly those at risk.

The program's objectives include:

- Provide community-based preventative education for expectant mothers and young women
- Improve maternal health referral and transport systems to increase safe delivery rates
- Strengthen the network of support for women with vesicovaginal fistula – a potentially dangerous side effect of birth

The program strengthens the continuum of care from community to health facility. At the local level, community health workers are trained in maternal/child health and use a mobile app to register, educate, and follow-up with expectant women and are supervised using an online reporting platform. In higher-level health facilities (i.e. district or regional), health workers receive basic or comprehensive emergency obstetric care training. Additionally, maternity wards have been upgraded and C-section wards have been constructed and equipped at district or regional hospitals.

To improve availability of rural emergency transportation for mothers, a 24/7 toll-free hotline responds to emergency calls and activates requests from health facilities for trained community taxi drivers. In turn, taxi drivers are dispatched to provide emergency transport and are paid through M-Pesa – a common way to transfer cash between mobile phones in Tanzania. The program also identifies transports, and treats women suffering from obstetric fistula, thereby redressing past health system failures to provide quality maternal health care.

RESULTS

- The emergency response system contributed to a 27 percent reduction in maternal mortality over three years in the two pilot districts in two regions.
- The program is being expanded from one to five districts in one of the pilot regions, supported by local governments and the same resource partners (except for USAID) in a new \$6 million public private partnership
- The focus of the existing public private partnership between USAID and Vodafone Foundation is now on improving maternal health care in 22 dispensaries and health centers in Dar es Salaam, which has reduced deliveries at regional hospitals by 20 percent over three years
- A new 200 bed Maternal and Newborn Hospital is being constructed by Vodafone and equipped by USAID and other resource partners to further ease congestion and treat emergency and complicated cases

BUDGET

\$7 million (USAID)
\$7.3 million (Vodafone Foundation)

DURATION

September 2013 – September 2019

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Lake Zone and Dar es Salaam

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Vodafone Foundation

PARTNERS

- Touch Foundation
- Pathfinder International
- Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT)

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