



## Saving Women's Lives with Misoprostol: Kenya Program

*In Kenya women have a 1 in 38 lifetime risk of dying from maternal causes<sup>1</sup>; an estimated 2,500 mothers die each year due to excessive bleeding after childbirth, or postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), and the majority (56%) deliver at home.<sup>2</sup> Complications of abortion also contribute significantly to the high rate of maternal death.*



VSI aims to facilitate a reduction in Kenya's maternal deaths by setting up systems to ensure widespread access to misoprostol and information on its effective use in women's health, focusing on **policy** development, **training** and **distribution** through the public and private sectors.

### Highlighted Activities

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- Technical assistance in registration of multiple misoprostol products for PPH and treatment of incomplete abortion and miscarriage; achieved July 2009 and August 2010
- Revision of national essential medicines list and national clinical guidelines (2010) to include misoprostol for PPH and treatment of incomplete abortion and miscarriage
- Technical assistance in the revision of the Postabortion Care (PAC) Curriculum and Emergency Obstetric Care Manual to include misoprostol for use in PAC
- Operations research evaluating safety and feasibility of misoprostol distribution at antenatal care visits, and by community midwives, for prevention of PPH among women who deliver at home; educated over 3,800 women on safer delivery with misoprostol
- Training of trainers to educate doctors, nurses and midwives on misoprostol for PPH and treatment of incomplete abortion and miscarriage
- Sensitized over 3,000 community health workers and community health extension workers on misoprostol for PPH
- Pharmacy detailer education on misoprostol for PPH and PAC

***VSI works in collaboration with many partners in Kenya.***

Kenya Obstetrics and Gynecology Society, Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, AMUA, Organization for Health Education Research Services, Reproductive Health Services, Marie Stopes Kenya, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Kenya and the Bixby Center for Population, Health and Sustainability at University of California, Berkeley

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990-2008, Geneva: WHO, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and ICF Macro. 2010. *Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2008-09*. Calverton, Maryland: KNBS and ICF Macro.

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