



Saving Women's Lives with Misoprostol: Mozambique Program

In Mozambique women have a 1 in 37 lifetime risk of dying from maternal causes¹; an estimated 1,500 mothers die each year due to excessive bleeding after childbirth, or postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), and half (51%) deliver at home.² Complications of abortion also contribute significantly to the high rate of maternal death.



VSI aims to facilitate a reduction in Mozambique'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

- Technical assistance in registration of misoprostol for PPH and treatment of incomplete abortion and miscarriage; achieved May 2009
- Operations research evaluating the safety and feasibility of misoprostol distribution at antenatal care visits as well as by traditional birth attendants for prevention of PPH in women delivering at home; nearly 12,000 women educated on safer delivery with misoprostol
- Pilot program evaluating the feasibility of provision of misoprostol-based postabortion care services by nurses and elementary midwives at rural health centers in two districts
- Training of trainers to educate doctors, nurses and midwives on misoprostol for PPH and treatment of incomplete abortion and miscarriage
- Revision of National Obstetric Guidelines to include misoprostol for gynecological and obstetric uses (in process)
- Pharmacy detailer education on use of misoprostol for PPH and postabortion care
- Collaboration with Pathfinder International and Associação Moçambicana de Obstetrícia e Ginecologia on a think tank for innovative health interventions, where senior medical professionals and policymakers discuss critical issues, challenges and barriers to improving maternal health and family planning in Mozambique

VSI works in collaboration with many partners in Mozambique.

Ministry of Health, DKT-Mozambique, PSI, Associação Moçambicana de Obstetrícia e Ginecologia, Pathfinder International, and the Bixby Center for Population, Health and Sustainability at University of California, Berkeley.

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

² Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE), Ministério da Saúde and ORC Macro. 2005. Moçambique: Inquérito Demográfico e de Saúde 2003. Maputo, Moçambique and Calverton, Maryland: INE, Ministério da Saúde and ORC Macro.

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