



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

*In Rwanda women have a 1 in 35 lifetime risk of dying from maternal causes.<sup>1</sup> Over 1,500 Rwandan women die each year in pregnancy and childbirth. Excessive bleeding after childbirth, or postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), and complications of abortion are the leading causes of these deaths.*



VSI aims to facilitate a reduction in Rwanda's maternal mortality by supporting the Ministry of Health and local partners to establish systems that ensure widespread access to the essential medicine misoprostol and information on its effective use in women's health.

VSI focuses on product **registration**, **policy** development, **training** and **distribution** through the public and NGO sectors.

### Highlighted Activities

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- Technical assistance to the Pharmacy Task Force of the Ministry of Health in the registration of a quality misoprostol product for PPH and treatment of incomplete abortion and miscarriage
- Creation of information, education and communication materials on misoprostol for prevention of PPH, including posters, brochures and product packaging in Kinyarwanda
- Development of Rwanda's first integrated Postabortion Care (PAC) Protocol which includes misoprostol and manual vacuum aspiration as treatment options
- Validation by leading maternal health stakeholders of the use of misoprostol for PAC in national training protocols
- Training of doctors, nurses and midwives in four districts (Bugesera, Kicukiro, Nyabihu and Gisagara) on the use of misoprostol for PAC as a part of the Ministry of Health's initial rollout of these services
- Monitoring & evaluation of program implementation and service provision
- Technical assistance to Rwanda Biomedical Center to facilitate procurement and distribution of misoprostol for PPH and PAC

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

Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Health, Rwanda Biomedical Center, Pharmacy Task Force, Population Services International and IntraHealth.

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

September 2011