



Saving Women's Lives with Misoprostol: Nigeria Program

In Nigeria - the most populous country in Africa - women have a 1 in 23 lifetime risk of dying from maternal causes¹; an estimated 23,000 mothers die each year due to excessive bleeding after childbirth, or postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), and the vast majority deliver at home.



VSI aims to facilitate a reduction in Nigeria'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 to multiple distributors in registration of misoprostol products for PPH to drive price competition
- Development of national clinical guidelines on the use of misoprostol for the prevention and treatment of PPH, and subsequent dissemination to providers countrywide
- Training of trainers to educate doctors, nurses, midwives and traditional birth attendants on misoprostol for PPH
- Community-level research in Zaria demonstrating that trained traditional birth attendants can safely administer misoprostol for prevention of PPH after home births to achieve higher uterotonic coverage
- Information, education and communication in local languages on the role of misoprostol in safer childbirth
- Initial rollout of misoprostol distribution at primary health centres in Edo and Ondo States
- Pharmacist education on misoprostol for PPH

VSI works in collaboration with many partners in Nigeria.

Federal Ministry of Health, Population and Reproductive Health Partnership at Ahmadu Bello University, Women's Health and Action Research Centre, Emzor Pharmaceuticals, Society for Family Health, Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, the Population Council and UC Berkeley Bixby Center for Population, Health and Sustainability.

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

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