



Global Voices For Maternal Health

sharing knowledge, saving lives

“ **Our Vision** is to bring maternal healthcare providers centre-stage in international efforts to reduce maternal mortality and make safe pregnancy a reality for all women, delivering progress in months, not decades.

“ **Our Mission** is to make community-level actors the major protagonists in identifying and solving the barriers to preventing maternal deaths. By providing doctors, nurses and midwives across Africa, Asia and Latin America with a direct global voice we will harness their combined experience and insight to kick-start a revolution in the local provision of evidence-based maternal healthcare.

This will be achieved through an innovative crowd-sourcing exercise seeking the perspectives of, and pragmatic input from, ten thousand maternal healthcare providers in the developing world. The unprecedented scale of the survey will give new weight and force to the views of those on the frontline, strengthening their voices on the international stage and deepening their involvement in the global fight to reduce maternal mortality.

Global Voices for Maternal Health aims to improve the health of women by enhancing the ability of maternal healthcare professionals to provide the best-practice, evidence-based treatments during pregnancy and childbirth.

Our tripled-faceted approach will contribute to this by:

- building a more accurate picture of the barriers facing doctors, nurses and midwives on the ground
- amassing new and innovative solutions arising from local experience and expertise
- swiftly disseminating results back to those in a position to implement them in order to see rapid realisation of lessons learnt

How this project can benefit midwives, nurses and doctors, and other organisations in the maternal healthcare field?

Maternal healthcare professionals, and the communities they serve and interact with on a regular basis, will be the primary beneficiaries of Global Voices for Maternal Health. Yet we anticipate that the potential benefits of this project will reach far beyond this, and have profound implications for all those with an interest in improving maternal health. Some of these are set out below.

For the local maternal healthcare provider:

- Empowering their voices on the global stage and increasing understanding of their needs and problems
- Bringing their perspectives and insight to the forefront in international discourse on the problem of maternal mortality
- Providing an avenue to put forward new and innovative solutions to identified barriers
- Stimulating reflection and thinking about new approaches to challenges
- Providing access to an online community of people in the same profession via the forum component of the website, where they can vote on proposals and provide feedback
- Enhancing the relevance to them of national and international schemes/projects
- Giving them a feedback mechanism as to what is working to increase accountability

For national organisations:

- Creating a source of data to support their work in, for example, lobbying activities, policy making and shaping of their advocacy agenda
- Providing greater information about the working situation of maternal healthcare providers in order to better address the challenges they face
- Fostering a new sense of unity and strengthening networks through the consultation process that can be used for numerous future projects
- Increasing healthcare providers engagement in efforts to improve maternal healthcare and reduce maternal mortality
- Enhancing the relevance of associations for their members by providing a clear project and purpose
- Clarifying areas where further training or education is needed
- Ultimately improving the national provision of maternal healthcare, with the effect of boosting the esteem in which the profession is held and increasing morale amongst professionals

For international organisations:

- Generating unprecedented international data on the state of maternal healthcare services in the developing world, its shortcomings, challenges, failures and successes
- Sharpening understanding of barriers to implementing interventions in order to improve, shape and guide international efforts in the field
- Strengthening the international network of maternal healthcare providers
- Establishing a precedent for utilising commercial crowd-sourcing technology in the not-for-profit sector to gather innovative potential new solutions, and providing a new resource pool which can be tapped when searching for a solution to a specific problem
- Developing successful practices and building capacity for future global internet-based surveys in the maternal healthcare field



Global Voices for Maternal Health www.globalvoices.org.uk

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