

“Faith-Based Organizations & Maternal Health”

Case Study – Bangladesh

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Maternal Health in Bangladesh:



- ▶ Maternal mortality rate is 348-470 deaths per 100,000 live births
- ▶ 85% of women deliver at home
- ▶ Only 18% of deliveries are assisted by medically trained personnel
- ▶ 33% of adolescent women (15-19) are already mothers



Underlying Causes of Maternal Mortality

- ▶ Cultural barriers and traditions
- ▶ Lack of decision making authority
- ▶ Gender inequalities
- ▶ Limited economic opportunities for women
- ▶ Poor social participation
- ▶ Domestic violence
- ▶ Poor infrastructure of medical centers



ADRA's Approach to Women's Empowerment

- ▶ Develop Civil Society Organizations
- ▶ Literacy for women
- ▶ Good health practices
- ▶ Livelihoods
- ▶ Advocacy
- ▶ Men's participation



ADRA's Response to Maternal Mortality

- ▶ Mobilize community to support pregnant women
- ▶ Educate families about maternal health issues
- ▶ Train Traditional Birth Attendants
- ▶ Awareness on family planning
- ▶ Improve nutrition
- ▶ Hygiene practices improved





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Way Forward

- ▶ Use of Rights Based Approaches to maternal health versus welfare approaches
- ▶ Move from project-oriented activities to local, regional and national level advocacy programs
- ▶ Pilot programs implemented by grassroots FBOs and compare impact with secular organizations





**HUMAN
RIGHTS
FIRST**

**TIME
4
TRUTH**

Human Story

