



Health workforce and stillbirths: Impact of midwifery care

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**Stillbirth affects
millions of
families and
every midwife,
obstetrician and
other skilled
birth attendant
around the world**



The Lancet Series on Midwifery

- Published June 2014

<http://www.thelancet.com/series/midwifery>

- Films of launch, presentation by lead authors, comment by organisations

<http://www.youtube.com/user/midwiferyaction>

- Two papers still in preparation

@midwiferyaction
#LancetMidwifery



The Lancet Series on Midwifery



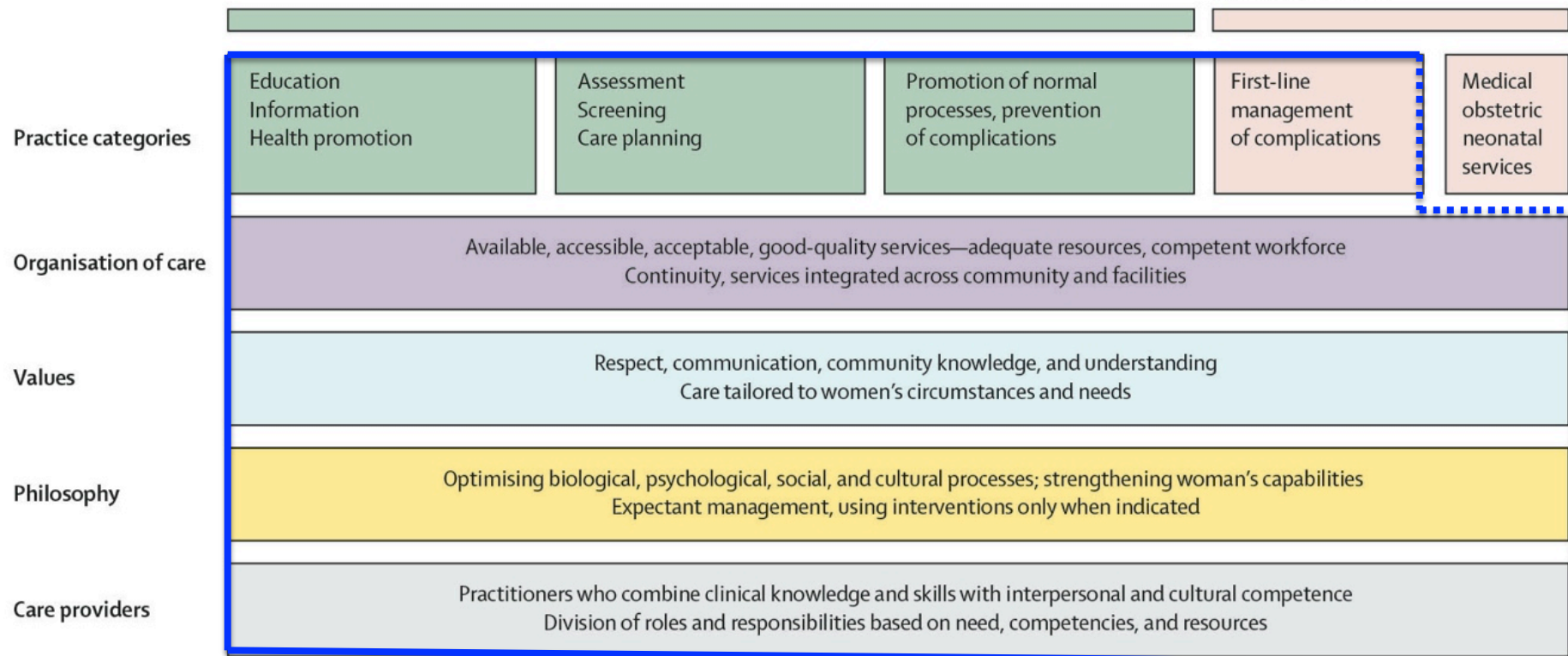
‘Midwifery is a vital solution to the challenges of providing high quality maternal and newborn care for all women and infants, in all countries’



Quality maternal and newborn care

For all childbearing women and infants

For childbearing women and infants
with complications



The projected effect of scaling up midwifery

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- **Aim:** To estimate the effect of midwifery care, as defined in this Series, on maternal and newborn outcomes
- **Objectives**
 - To estimate maternal, fetal, and neonatal deaths averted using the Lives Saved Tool (LiST) under different coverage over 15 years in 78 low-income and middle income countries
 - to estimate the value of the incremental addition of specialist care to midwifery on maternal, fetal, and neonatal lives saved



The 78 countries

- All 58 countries in *The State of the World's Midwifery* 2011
 - plus all additional Countdown 2015 countries
- High-burden, low-income and middle-income countries accounting for 97% of maternal and 94% of neonatal mortality
- We used the HDI to classify the countries into 3 groups of 26 countries each



The interventions ...

- Identified in the *Essential interventions, commodities and guidelines for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health* and in Paper 1
- delivered as part of midwifery services, particularly by midwives educated to international standards and who are integrated into the health system.
- Specialist medical interventions were those requiring medical assistance such as blood transfusions or caesarean sections (CEmONC)



Scenarios ...

	Description of changes	Percentage change
0	No change in coverage or fertility rates	No changes
1	Modest scale-up in coverage	10% increase each 5 years
2	Substantial scale-up in coverage	25% increase each 5 years
3	Universal coverage of all interventions	95% coverage of each intervention
4	Attrition back from current status	2% reduction each 5 years



Findings

- Universal coverage of midwifery reduced maternal deaths, **stillbirths**, and neonatal deaths
- In low HDI countries
 - modest (10%) increase in midwifery reduced stillbirths by 26%
 - substantial coverage increase (25%) reduced stillbirths by 50%
 - universal coverage (95%) reduced stillbirths by 76%
- Similar reductions in maternal and neonatal deaths



Summary

- Even modest increases in coverage can reduce stillbirths
- Family planning is important:
 - reduces pregnancies that are of potential risk for mother, fetus and newborn
- Access to specialist care when needed makes a difference
 - but not as much as family planning
- Midwives can efficiently and effectively deliver the majority of the interventions as a package of care



Midwifery – a Package of Care

MIDWIFERY2030 A PATHWAY TO HEALTH



PLANNING AND PREPARING means:

- delaying marriage
- completing secondary education
- providing comprehensive sexual education for boys and girls
- protecting yourself against HIV
- maintaining a good health and nutritional status
- planning pregnancies using modern contraceptive methods

ENSURING A HEALTHY START means:

- maintaining your health and preparing yourself for pregnancy, childbirth and the early months as a new family
- receiving at least four antenatal care visits, which include discussing birth preparedness and making an emergency plan
- demanding and receiving professional supportive and preventive midwifery care to help you and your baby stay healthy, and to deal with complications effectively, should they arise



SUPPORTING A SAFE BEGINNING means:

- safely accessing midwifery services with the partner of your choice when labour starts
- finding respectful, supportive and preventive care, provided by competent midwives who have access to the equipment and supplies they need and receiving emergency obstetric care if required
- participating in decisions about how you and your baby are cared for
- having the privacy and space to experience birth without unnecessary disturbance and interventions
- being supported by a collaborative midwifery team in the event that you do need emergency obstetric care

CREATING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE means:

- starting to breastfeed immediately and being supported to continue breastfeeding as long as you wish
- being provided with information about and support in caring for your child in the first months and years of life
- receiving information about family planning so you can efficiently space your next pregnancy
- being supported by the midwifery team to access child and family health services and vaccination programmes at the appropriate time



UNFPA, WHO, ICM, *State of the World's Midwifery* 2014

