



Maternity Foundation Projects in Ethiopia



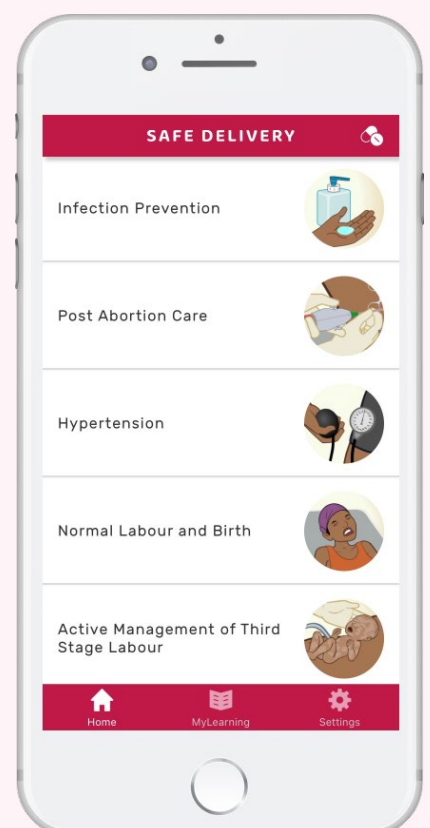
At Maternity Foundation we believe that it should not cost life to give life. Most maternal deaths happen in poor and fragile settings, but the majority can be prevented if the women receive quality care from a skilled healthcare professional.

Therefore, Maternity Foundation builds midwifery and healthcare knowledge and skills among healthcare professionals in low-resource areas through innovative learning programmes and cost-effective digital health solutions, such as the Safe Delivery App.

Maternity Foundation is an international NGO with offices in Ethiopia, India and Denmark. We have engagements in multiple countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa, and Southeast Asia. In 2023, we expanded our work into Latin America and the Caribbean. We use innovative digital health solutions and learning programs to support healthcare professionals with access to instant, competency-based learning and training and international best practice clinical guidelines, so they can provide quality care to women and babies.

Our work contributes to strengthening national health systems by supporting the pre-service and in-service training of skilled birth attendants and building communities of practice, by promoting quality of care and driving demand for RMNCH services, and by contributing to the evidence base around digital health and healthcare professional capacity building.

We work with a diverse group of partners and stakeholders to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in low resource settings: we partner with national governments, Ministries of Health, midwifery and nursing associations, NGOs, UN agencies, research institutes, tech agencies and private sector partners.



Maternity Foundation in Ethiopia

- In-country presence for 16 years
- 25 national staff members
- Partner to Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), Ethiopian Midwifery Association (EMwA), UNFPA, UNICEF, Academic institutions and Universities
- Experience in working across the country, including Gambella, Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Somalia regions
- The Safe Delivery App (SDA), which is approved by FMOH, is available in 4 local languages (Amharic, Afaan Oromo, Somali and English)

Snapshot: The Safe Delivery App in Ethiopia (numbers from 2023)

- More than 15,000 users in Ethiopia
- 95% of users are healthcare professionals
- Almost 2600 users accessing the *MyLearning* platform to build and test their clinical knowledge
- 112 MyLearners have passed all levels to become *Safe Delivery Champions*
- Most commonly accessed content in the SDA are modules on infection prevention, post abortion care and hypertension



Key areas of our work in Ethiopia



1. Capacity building

- Providing expert technical advice on safe motherhood and digital health to the Federal Ministry of Health
- Facilitating competency-based learning for healthcare professionals and peer-to-peer learning through communities of practice
- Contributing to the development of clinical guidelines and professional development framework for midwives
- **Key partners:** Regional Health Bureaus, UNFPA, UNICEF, Novo Nordisk Foundation, CISU, Universities (Metu, Wollega, Debrebirhan and Bahirdar)
- **Coverage:** Nationwide



2. Humanitarian response and recovery

- Facilitating competency based trainings on critical obstetric care and family planning
- Distributing dignity kits and basic medical equipment
- Conducting community education and empowerment activities
- **Key partners:** UNFPA, UNICEF and Regional Health Bureaus
- **Coverage:** Somali, Afar, Amhara and Gambella region



3. Covid-19 response

- Facilitating healthcare professional training on infection prevention and Covid-19
- Distributing Personal Protective Equipment
- **Key partners:** Novo Nordisk Foundation, UNFPA, UNICEF, Regional Health Bureau
- **Coverage:** Addis Ababa and Oromia



4. Research and Learning

- Piloting new learning approaches in midwifery education and tracking the results in the quality of teaching and learning processes
- Exploring the impact of short vs. spaced training with and without the SDA
- **Key partners:** American Association of Pediatrics, Leardal Global Health, Universities (Metu, Wollega, Debrebirhan and Bahirdar), and Regional Health Bureaus

Interventions and achievements

Ongoing

- Implementing UNCEF funded project on strengthening the quality of maternal and newborn health services through Catchment Based Mentorship in Somali and Afar regions (2024)
- Implementing CISU funded project in collaboration with EMwA
- Implementing UNFPA funded project to provide integrated lifesaving Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights services to emergency affected population in Afar region

UNFPA

- Implementation of the project "Towards accessing universal SRH and Rights services and addressing emergency SRH services for IDPs and returnees in selected districts of Afar region ", in collaboration with UNFPA (2018- 2023)
- 1677 (993 male and 684 females) community representatives and influential people participated in an awareness raising event covering crucial maternal and child health. In addition, 32 community volunteers were oriented
- 363 pregnant and lactating women attended conference sessions, focusing on the utilization of Antenatal care (ANC), Skilled Birth Attendance (SBA), Postnatal Care (PNC), Family planning (FP), and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and timely referral of any GBV cases
- International Youth Day was celebrated in Chifra Woreda engaging 184 youths, focused on promoting a healthy life for youths
- Construction and hand over of nine cultural Maternity Waiting Homes in the Afar region
- Implementation of UNFPA funded project on sexual and reproductive health, GBV, and Covid -19 among adolescents and youth in the Afar region (2022)

Bygma Foundation

- Implementation of catchment-based mentorship in Gimbie, West Oromia region. Also supporting the region in prevention of transmission of Covid through provision of training and supplies such as Personal Protective Equipment

UNICEF

- Implementation of a UNCEF funded project on strengthening the quality of maternal and newborn health services through Catchment Based Mentorship in Somali and Afar regions (2021-2024)
- A total of 109 mentors were capacitated with Catchment Based Mentorship, HMS/HBS, and social analysis and action
- A total of 288 mentees mentored in 90 health centers and 81 mentees are taking part in mentoring in 20 health centers of Afar and Somali region
- 77 mobile health team members trained on Helping Mothers Survive/ Helping Babies Breathe

Novo Nordisk

- Implementation of Novo Nordisk funded project in Addis Ababa focused on remote training concepts in response to emergency reproductive health and prevention and management of Covid -19 (November 2020 - October 2021)

- Implementation of the project 'Strengthening health system capacity to provide lifesaving health services to crises-affected IDPs and host communities in the Somali Region, Ethiopia' supported by Novo Nordisk Foundation (2019-2020)

Laerdal Global Health

- In collaboration with Laerdal Global Health and American Academy of Pediatrics, Maternity Foundation implemented an Essential Newborn Care (ENC) remote training program in Amhara region - a four-arm pilot study testing short vs. spaced training with and without integration of the SDA in a semi-urban context in Ethiopia (2021-2022)
- In collaboration with Laerdal Global health and the International Confederation of Midwives, we implemented SDA integrated Helping Mothers Survive and Helping Babies Breathe (HMS/HBS) capacity building project in the Amhara region (2019 -2020)
- Implementation of a research project using the SDA in HMS/HBB training for health professionals funded by Laerdal Global Health

Gates Foundation

- Implementation of national program on SDA integration in Catchment Based Mentorship supported by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2019)
- Implementation of a project on pre-service SDA integration in midwifery curriculum funded by Gates Foundation (2018)
- Implementation of national SDA integration and capacity building in basic emergency obstetrics and newborn care project funded by Gates (2018)

Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF)

- Implementation of a humanitarian project on Emergency Reproductive Health and WASH for South Sudanese Refugees' in Gambella funded by the Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF) (2017-2018)
- Implementation of a project to respond to needs in treatment of malnutrition, Anfilo, Oromia, Ethiopia funded by DERF (2017-2018)

Other projects

- Led development of National SDA integration Training of Trainers learning package
- Integration of Maternal Health project at Gode, Somali (2014-2017)
- Implementation and integration of maternal and child health project (2016-2020)
- Launch of the full SDA in Ethiopia (2015)
- Establishment of Regional Capacity Training Hub in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2014)
- mHealth research project launched: 'Clinical Safe Delivery App and Wired Mothers' (2013)
- Launch of the second phase of the project: Integrated Maternal and Child Health Project (scope: 60 villages, 4 districts, 2 hospitals, 8 rural health centers, 80 health posts) (2011)
- HRH Crown Princess Mary of Denmark becomes Patron of Maternity Foundation (2010)
- Maternity Foundation entered into long term administration partnership with Obelske Familiefondet and other key operational Support Partnerships established (2009)
- Launch of the first phase of the project: Integrated Maternal Health Project in West Wollega (project scope: 40 villages in 3 districts, 4 rural health centers, 1 hospital) (2006)