

“Although the latest UN Statistics reported a trend that there are fewer women dying from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, globally there are still 1,000 women dying a day due to pregnancy and childbirth complications. That is like two giant jumbo jets full of women crashing down daily or 41 women dying every hour and yet no one hears about this. It’s not breaking news. But if a small 12-passenger plane crashes the news is featured on TV around the globe.” (Julie Marsaban, SISWP)



The Independent State of Papua New Guinea is a country occupying the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and numerous off shore islands, located in the south-western Pacific Ocean. The majority of the population live in traditional societies and practise subsistence based agriculture. Many

people live in extreme poverty, with about 1/3rd living on US\$ 1.25 per day. Papua New Guinea is one of the most culturally diverse countries on Earth, with over 850 indigenous languages and at least as many traditional societies, with a population of approx. 7 million

All donations should be sent to your Federation Headquarters for onward transmission to Soroptimist International.

Please mark donations:
December 10th
President's Appeal 2011

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THE PRINTING OF THIS BROCHURE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY SI OF THE KACHINAS AND SI NEWPORT HARBOR AREA, BOTH IN THE US.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



BIRTHING IN THE PACIFIC 2011 PRESIDENT'S DECEMBER 10 APPEAL

INCREASING SKILLS, FURTHER EDUCATING BIRTH ATTENDANTS, AND IMPROVING FACILITIES TO REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

Birthing in the Pacific

In resource poor countries, only 36% of births are attended by skilled health care worker. Less than 30% of women have a supervised delivery in a health facility. Increasing access to supervised deliveries and properly functioning health care facilities for women to deliver greatly reduces the risk of dying from complications.

Main purpose

Our aim is to demonstrate that a tiered model of practical education programmes, support for birthing attendants, and improved access to delivering in facilities will contribute to the reduction of maternal and infant mortality in Papua New Guinea.

Overall Maternal Mortality rate in PNG is 733 deaths per 100,000 live births. Most maternal deaths occur in the 24-48 hours surrounding delivery, where a correctly chosen suite of interventions can be most effective. Untreated, death occurs on average in

- 2 hours (Post Partum Haemorrhage)
- 12 hours (Ante-Partum Haemorrhage)
- 2 days (Obstructed Labour)
- 7-10 days (Infection)



Support for...

Birth Attendants in PNG

This project will roll out four levels of training and support for nurses and midwives, community health workers, and village birth attendants.

Mothers and Babies

We will provide birthing packs, increase access to pre-natal and reproductive health education, and access to supervised deliveries in functioning health facilities.

Birthing Centres

As we use education to save lives, we will also ensure that resources and facilities are equipped with the necessary tools skilled birth attendants need to do their jobs.

Communities in PNG

Finally, as with all SI projects, we will work with the wider community to ensure everyone learns about reproductive health care and family planning.

Together, we can save lives.



Maggie is a Community Health Worker working in a rural clinic in Ramu. For the past four months there has been no electricity at the clinic. Last night Maggie assisted a woman to deliver her baby. The mother had not had any pre natal care. She was in advanced labour when she presented. With the aid of a candle (there were no batteries for the torch) Maggie examined the woman and realised she had a face presentation. Maggie called in the registered midwife to assist her with the delivery. The baby was delivered and Maggie had to resuscitate the baby in the dark by using a straw in her mouth and sucking out the mucous from the baby's air passages. Mother and baby are now doing well waiting to return to their village. Maggie is a Soroptimist with the SI Ramu Club.

Cecelia is a registered midwife who practices alone in a remote Aid Post in the highlands of PNG. Cecelia sees approximately 50 women a week for antenatal care. Last week Cecelia was called to a village 20 km from her aid post to assist a woman who had not come to the clinic for delivery. Complications had occurred and the woman could not be moved. The village people lit a huge fire to provide the light for Cecelia to attend to her patient. Unfortunately, the woman had a haemorrhage prior to Cecelia arriving at the village and the woman delivered a still-born baby. The woman was transported by car to the nearest provincial hospital 50 kilometers away the next day for further treatment.

