



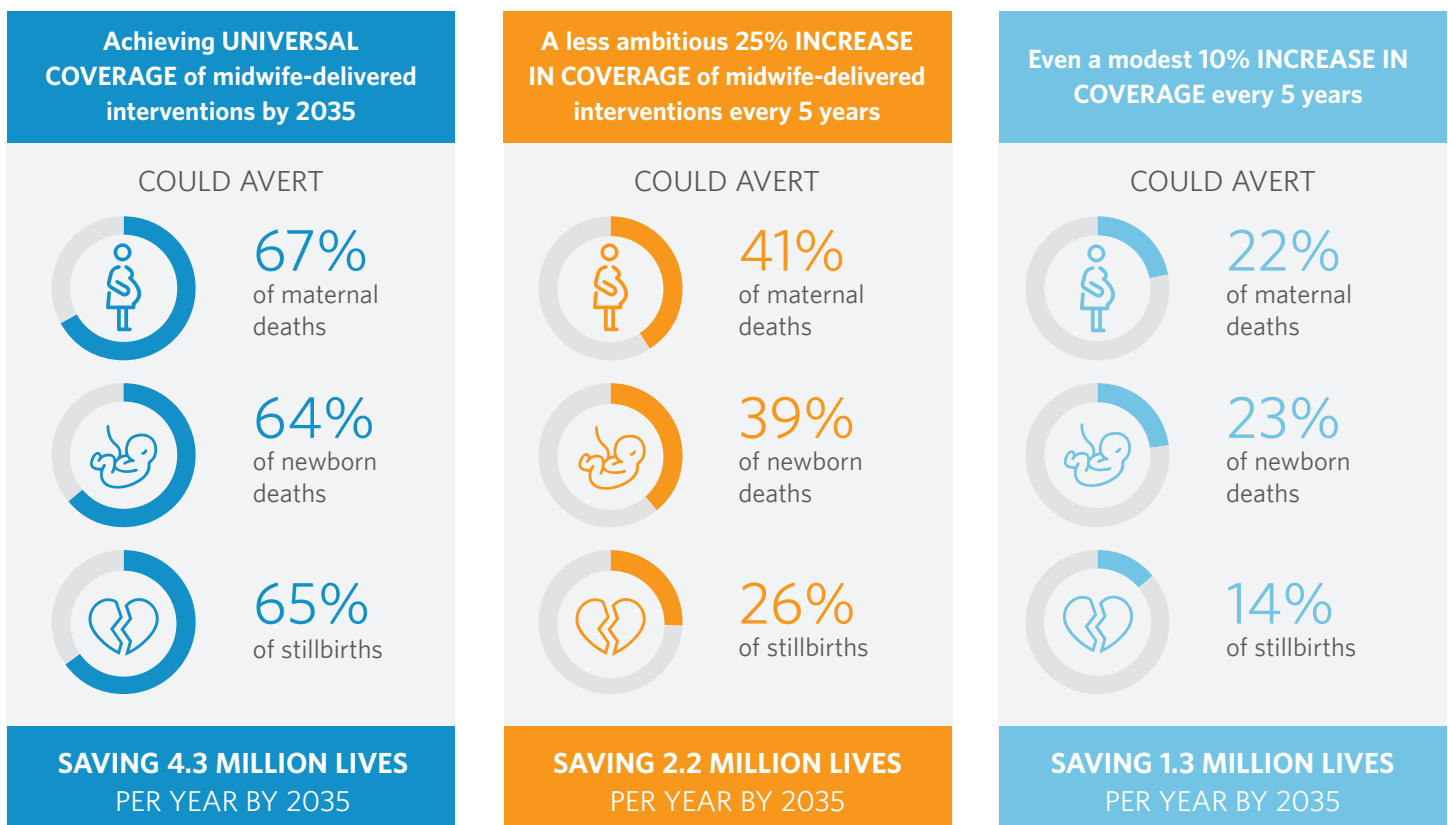
New study reveals investing in midwives could save millions of lives

A new study published in the Lancet Global Health¹ documents the potential impact of midwives in preventing and reducing maternal and newborn mortality and stillbirths. Led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Confederation of Midwives and the World Health Organization, the study is based on modelled estimates of deaths averted in 88 low- and middle-income countries that account for over 95% of global maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths. These countries have severe health workforce shortages: they are home to 74% of the world's population but just 46% of the world's doctors, nurses and midwives.



Key findings from the study

Midwives who are **EDUCATED AND REGULATED TO GLOBAL STANDARDS** play a vital role in reducing mortality



1. See: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(20\)30397-1/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(20)30397-1/fulltext)

A small decrease in coverage rates (2% every 5 years) would result in 552,000 more maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths per year than if the 88 countries maintained current rates of coverage of these interventions.



Overall, increased coverage of midwife-delivered interventions, including family planning, would:



HELP REDUCE
the number of abortions
from
40 million
to 25 million



HELP AVERT
44% of infant deaths
due to HIV
from 27,000
to 15,000



CONTRIBUTE TO
healthier families and more
productive communities
and to a **health system**
that can provide effective
coverage of essential
sexual, reproductive,
maternal, newborn and
adolescent health services.



For midwives to work effectively, investment is needed in their **education, training, regulation** and **working environment**.

For more information about midwives and midwifery see:

<https://www.unfpa.org/midwifery>

Acknowledgements: UNFPA extends its gratitude to the Johnson & Johnson Foundation for supporting advocacy activities associated with the launch of this new study.