Uganda’s Future:
Improving the Health of Mothers and Children

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Map of Maternal Mortality, Worldwide

2000    Maternal deaths per 100,000 Live Births


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Lost: Life, Rights, and Productivity

• **Globally, one woman dies every minute** from complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

• High maternal death rates are an indicator of inadequate health care system, which is clearly a **direct violation of women’s fundamental rights to life, health, and self determination**.

• Every year, **the world loses US $15 billion to lost productivity** by letting women die in pregnancy and childbirth.
Ugandan Population: Large and Growing Rapidly

Total population, 2008            31 million
Projected population, 2050       130 million
Projected population change 2007-2050  319%
Population younger than age 15  50%
Lifetime births per woman        6.7
Maternal mortality ratio         435
Uganda: Why do pregnant women die?

Many high-risk pregnancies
  • too early    • too close
  • too many    • too late

Government unable to provide quality reproductive health services, especially in rural areas
Effective, Low-Cost Strategies Exist to Improve the Health of Mothers and Children

- Family planning and other reproductive health services
- Skilled care during pregnancy and childbirth
- Emergency care when life-threatening complications develop
- Immediate postnatal care for mothers and newborns
Family Planning Reduces Maternal Death Up to 40%

Where family planning is available and used, maternal mortality is lower.
A $1 Million Family Planning Investment Prevents:

- 800 Maternal deaths
- 11,000 Infant deaths
- 14,000 Under-5 children’s deaths
- 150,000 Induced abortions
- 360,000 Unwanted pregnancies

Family planning is one of the most cost-effective ways for poor countries to make progress.
Uganda’s Future: Improving the Health of Mothers and Children

• Families with fewer children can devote additional resources to enhanced education, nutrition, and health.

• Mothers who space their children have more opportunity for paid labor, education, and personal development.
What is the message?

NO WOMAN SHOULD LOSE HER LIFE WHILE GIVING LIFE.
Thank you!