

International Confederation of Midwives and the Millennium Development Goals

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ICM History

- Founded in 1919
- Headquarters, The Hague, The Netherlands
- Currently made up of 93 Midwifery Associations in 80 countries

Vision and Mission

- A world where every childbearing woman has access to a midwife's care for herself and her newborn
- To strengthen Member Associations and to advance the profession of midwifery globally by promoting *autonomous midwives* as the most appropriate caregivers for childbearing women and in keeping birth normal, in order to enhance the reproductive health of women, and the health of their newborn and their families.

Strategic Objectives

- Strengthen midwifery education and on-going education programmes and the role of the midwife as an educator
- Strengthen and support midwives’ professional autonomy to ensure midwifery education, regulation and practice is designed and governed specifically by midwives
- Promote and support midwifery research that enhances and documents evidence-based midwifery practices
- Raise awareness of midwifery and extend the influence of midwives in order to lobby and advocate for policy changes relating to maternal, newborn and reproductive health care nationally and internationally
- Enter into strategic collaborations with relevant international organisations, alliances and networks that share a common vision for the promotion of the health of women and their families

Issues in the Countries

- Acute shortage of midwives
- Number of trained midwives do not meet needs
- Diversity in midwifery training
- Midwives scope of practice
- Constraints on the role of the midwife in midwifery regulation
- Prescriptive authority for midwives to promote autonomous practice
- Health outcomes and midwifery practice
- Need for regulatory framework

Activities

- Three essential pillars of a strong profession – Regulation / Education / Research
- Launch of UNFPA/ICM Midwives programme working in 15 low-resource countries

- Midwifery Services Framework: comprehensive and adaptable for the organisation and management of midwifery services which can be shared with countries for human resources planning
- Development of global regulation standards
 - Development of Global Standards for Midwifery Education
 - Identify what is required to prepare a qualified midwife as defined by ICM
 - Update the 2002 ICM Essential Competencies for Midwifery Practice
 - Standards and competencies task forces working closely together
 - International experts and support from WHO

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) form a plan, agreed by all the countries of the world and the development organisations, to improve life for the world’s poorest people. The MDGs focus on ending extreme poverty and hunger, improving maternal and child health, gender equality, universal access to education, combating HIV/AIDS, global partnership and environmental sustainability.

Are we prepared to respond with our activities and objectives to this challenge?

We must reducing maternal and infant mortality, so:

- What international statistical data are readily available to ICM about 4th,5th,6th MDG ?
- What projects (ICM, WHO, UNFPA) are in progress aiming to achieve the 4th, 5th, 6th MDG ?
- What progress has been achieved through these projects ?
- How ICM will proceed after 2015 ?