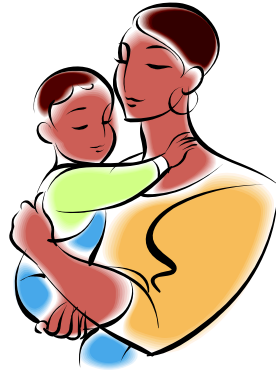




SAFE MOTHERHOOD INITIATIVE CLEAN AND SAFE BIRTH



SAFE MOTHERHOOD CHALLENGES

The problems of maternal neonatal mortality are complex involving women's status, education, employment opportunities and the availability to women of basic human rights and freedoms.

Each year in Africa at least 30 million women become pregnant...

- Around 250,000 women die of pregnancy related causes
- Approximately 1 million babies are stillborn of which at least 300,000 die during labor
- At least 1.16 million babies die in their first month of life
- 4 million low birth weight babies and others with neonatal complications may live but not reach their full potential
- 600,000 babies are infected with HIV through mother to child transmission
- In the United States – Black women are 2 to 6 times more likely to die from complications of pregnancy than white women, depending on where they live
- These rates have not improved between 1987 and 1996

What should this call Links to do?

- Chapters can continue to purchase Maama kits
- Raise awareness of issues surrounding safe motherhood locally as well as abroad
- Be an advocate in your community for women to live healthy lifestyles and access health care
- Promote and celebrate Mother's Day as "Safe Motherhood Day"
- Chapters should promote the month of March – Women's History Month – highlight issues of maternal health
- Provide lectures in the community on healthy pregnancy
- Partner with a local school that has a pregnancy program or has high numbers of pregnant teens
- White Ribbon programs and activities

Resources: www.worldhealthorganization.org, American Medical Association 1999, www.whiteribbonalliance.org