

Finding the midwife in MCH: Midwives and safe motherhood in low resource areas

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"Mid-wife means with woman..."

Jorde moder

Hebamme

Partera

Vroedvrouw

Shou shen

Bidan

Dai

Sage femme

Comadrone

Who are the midwives?

What/who do you think of? Midwifery skills may be practiced by—

professional midwives

traditional midwives called to their work

nurses and doctors with midwifery training

...and yes there are midwives who are men

International definition of midwife

'A midwife is a person who, having been regularly admitted to an educational programme, duly recognised in the country in which it is located, has successfully completed the prescribed course of studies in midwifery and has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practise midwifery'

What does a midwife do?

'She must be able to give the necessary supervision, care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct deliveries *on her own responsibility* and to care for the newborn and the infant.'



It is a long 'to do' list....

- She has an important task in health counselling and education, not only for women, but also within the community. The work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and extends to certain areas of gynaecology, family planning and child care.



Nutrition education



Where does a midwife work?

She may practise in hospitals, clinics, health units, domiciliary conditions or any other service.'

In other words, wherever women have babies, including war zones, natural disasters, IDP and refugee camps, and in forests, deserts, fields...







But the midwife also.....

- Vaccinates children in Latin America
- Treats malaria in Cambodia
- Talks to mullahs about birth spacing in Kashmir
- Reorganizes care for women in Afghanistan
- Occasionally treats farm animals
- Cares for the dying, celebrates the living, and is part of the community

Midwifery clinic in
a box; San Lucas
Toliman, Guatemala



Mobile clinic, Nueva Providencia, Guatemala



**Weighing babies Rural
Health Center,
Cambodia**





Education

- Ranges from 1 year to 5 years, may be university or certificate
- May include nursing; or not
- Often programs are developed to meet the specific needs of a country—the Lady Health Visitors in Pakistan, Primary Midwives in Cambodia

Midwifery education—many paths to the truth

US version: Nurse-midwives, licensed midwives, certified midwives

Euro-version (and Canada): Professional midwives, with or without nursing

Others: Typically modeled on European system

Traditional midwives: Part of every region's history and still integral part of the system



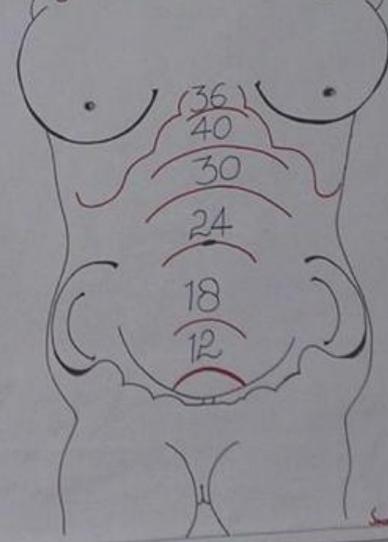
Midwifery classroom; Pakistan

ماں کے دودھ کی خصوصیات

- ۱۔ ماں کا دودھ بچے میں قوت مدافعت پیدا کرتا ہے اور بیماریوں سے بچاتا ہے۔
 - ۲۔ ماں کا دودھ زیادہ طاقت ور اور زود ہضم ہوتا ہے۔
 - ۳۔ ماں کا دودھ بوقت ضرورت مل سکتا ہے۔
 - ۴۔ بچے کے پانچ ماہ میں بڑھو اور قبض کی شکایت نہیں ہوتی۔
 - ۵۔ ماں کا دودھ جراثیم سے پاک ہوتا ہے اور بچے دستوں اور قے کی تکلیف سے بچے رہتا ہے جو کہ کبھی کبھی جان لیوا ثابت ہوتے ہیں۔
 - ۶۔ ماں اور بچے میں قدرتی پیار بڑھتا ہے۔
 - ۷۔ ماں کا دودھ پینے والے بچے سے خاص قسم کی مہلک آتی ہے۔
 - ۸۔ ماں کا دودھ چھاتی پر پھونکا یا کینسر کی صورت میں نہیں پلانا چاہیے۔
- اس کے علاوہ ماں کے دودھ میں کوئی خرابی نہیں ہوتی۔

اساتذہ کرام

Growth of The Uterus Showing The Fundal Height at Various Weeks of Pregnancy



Stepping out of our Western education boxes of what is "good"

- In Guatemala, a qualified teacher has finished high school
- A nurse with a 2 year education runs the clinic and sees the complications
- Health care auxiliaries deliver babies, suture machete wounds, start IVs
- Auxiliaries are being taught to do cesarean births in eastern Congo

Teaching in other ways

- Learning by singing and dancing
- Role plays
- Stories
- Indonesian midwives made up a song of the 54 steps of normal birth and newborn care

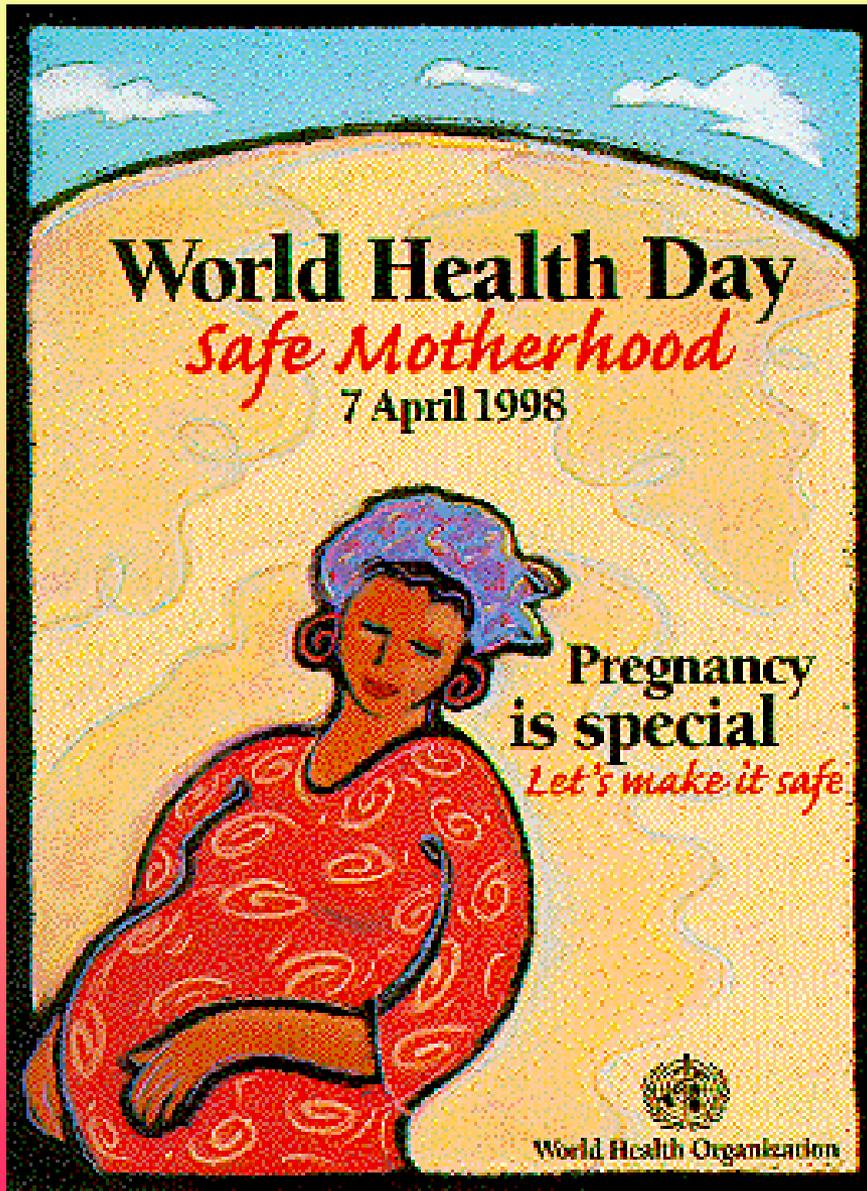




What is best? Who gets to decide?

Strong push for the "skilled birth attendant" by WHO

- Does that mean anyone else is unskilled?
- In the US "the midwife problem" was promoted as a way to get all midwives out of the formal system
- Is there now a "TBA problem?"



“Skilled attendant
at childbirth is
the most
effective
intervention...”
But what is
skilled?

Traditional Birth Attendants: TBA is not a derogatory term

- Community-based
- Sought out by women
- Low tech
- Teaches clean delivery
- Can link traditional knowledge with biomedical knowledge

Traditional birth attendants: problem or excuse? *

Present in virtually every community

Attend most births in much of
developing world countries (80% in
Pakistan, ~70% in rural Guatemala)

Great amounts of resources have been
invested in their training/upgrade and
there is not a consistent benefit
recognized....

*Hint: it is messier than you think

Why *can't* TBAs do the work?

- Even when highly skilled they are limited by the structure of the setting—lack of referral, resources
- Limited by the (lack of) respect accorded them, not listened to
- Not mobile, often pre-literate, frequently taken advantage of
- What if they disappeared? Who will care for the women?

Traditional Birth Attendants

Conclusion: TBAs are useful *and present* in the maternal health network, but there will not be a substantial reduction in maternal mortality by TBAs delivering clinical services alone.

Nobody acts in a vacuum and the most highly skilled provider is inept without supporting structure.

Comadrona Gloria
and medicinal
plants



Safe motherhood

- A particular medical condition kills and maims millions each year. It attacks the most vulnerable: women, the poor, the disadvantaged and those denied access to health care.
- This is not a disease; it is the means by which the human race is propagated - pregnancy and childbirth. M. Cham

What is the worth of a woman?

- Honor? If someone dishonors her *she* will likely be the one to die
- Money? In parts of Pakistan \$3 is too much to pay to get her to a hospital. She will die at home
- Attention? Every water buffalo has its own personal 5 year old to tend it...women don't rate special care

Who attends these most vulnerable women?

- The fallback is always to those who are there, be they aunts and sisters, other mothers, TBAs or health care workers.
- Women are more likely to stay in the community—particularly if they are educated within that community
- Midwives are the most appropriate providers of care for these women

Safe motherhood and midwives

Safe motherhood is the ability of the mother to have a baby when she wants to, how she wants to, and not die...

Midwifery is everything we do to assure this.

Nestor Moyo, midwife, Zimbabwe

The work of a midwife

"The job of the midwife is to put fresh banana leaves down for the woman to have her baby"

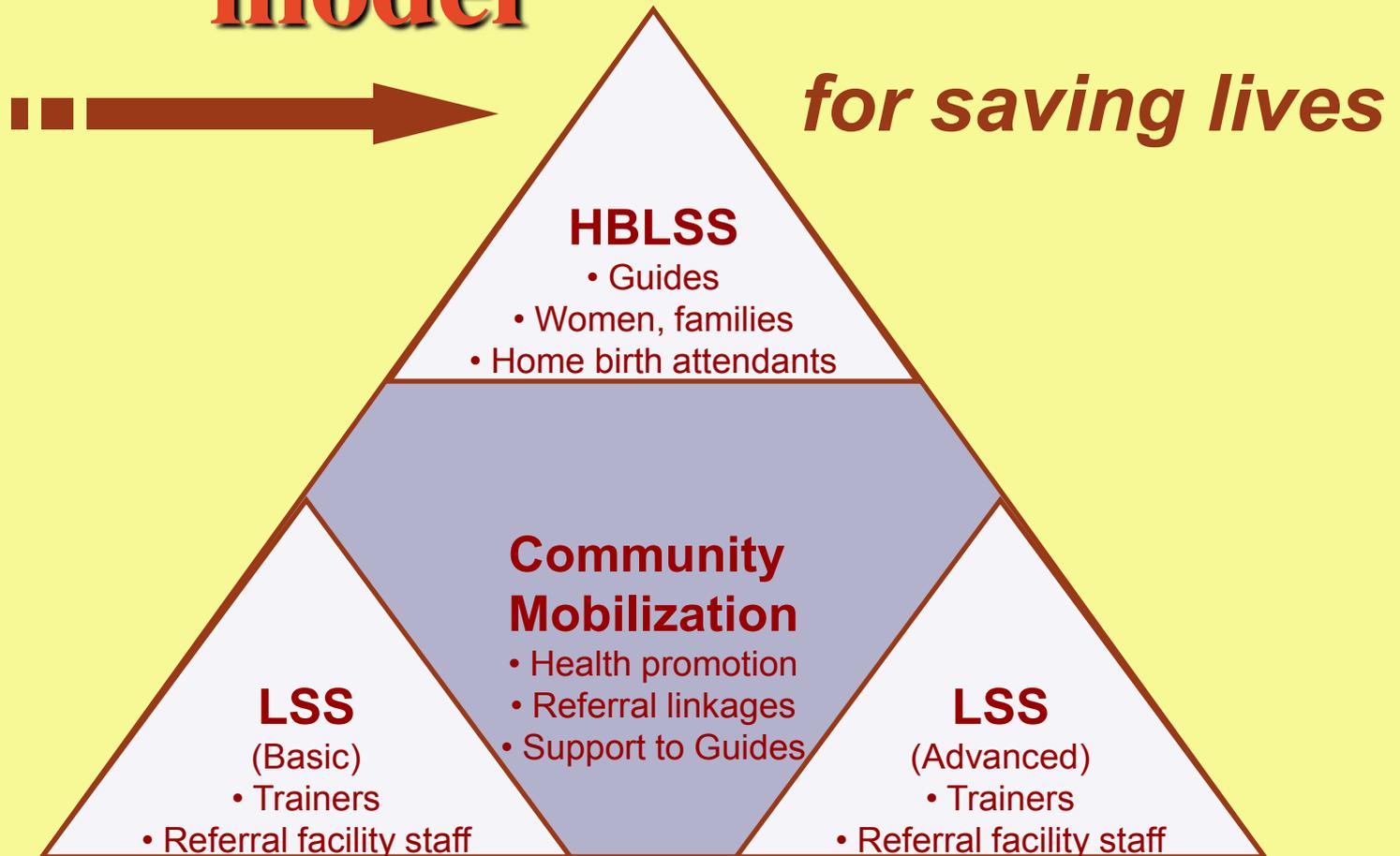
West African midwife

The view from the trenches: midwives as key to healthy families

Interventions:

- HBLSS/LSS
- Partograph
- Skin to skin/kangaroo care
- Professional association strengthening

A community partnership model



Home Based Lifesaving Skills (HBLSS)

- Pregnancy and birth “emergency first aid” at the community level
- Focuses on local, non-professional action using simple stories and pictures for interventions
- Does not require literacy or formal education by community members



HBLSS Audience



ॐ Pregnant women

ॐ Family caregivers

ॐ Homebirth
attendants

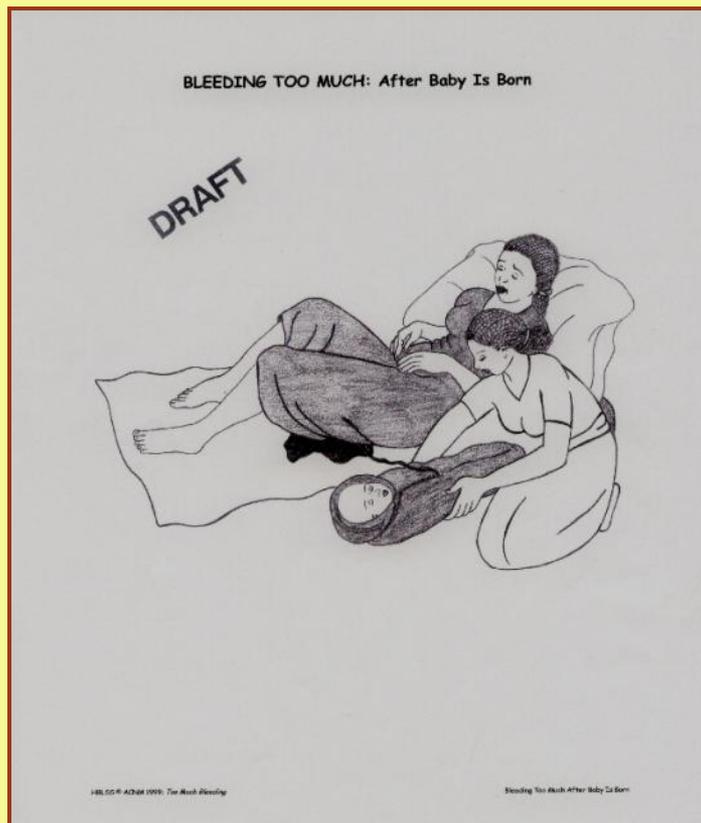
ॐ Community leaders

HBLSS: Teaching women & families

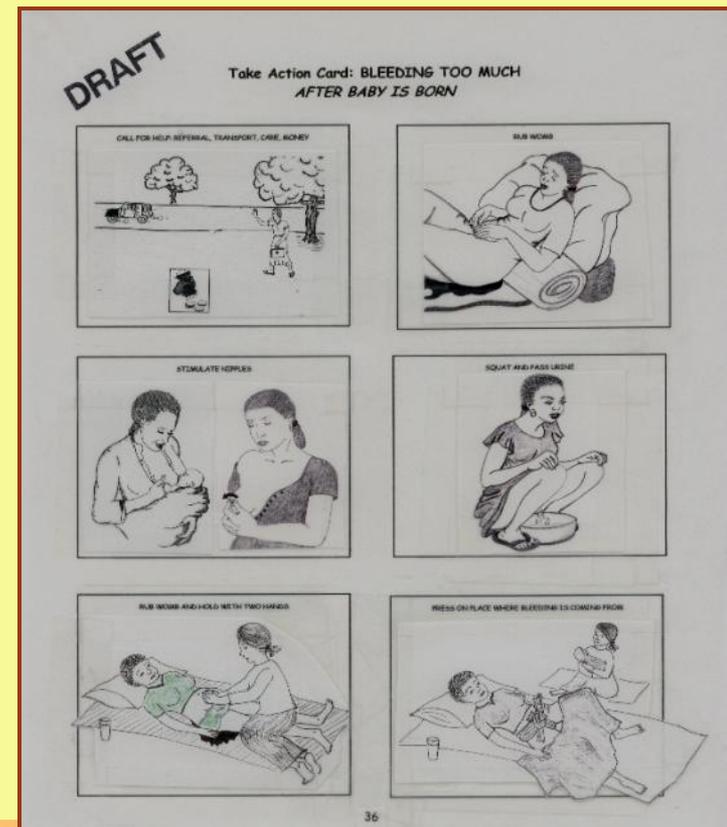


Example-- *Take Action Card* 'Too Much Bleeding After Birth'

Problem side



Action Side



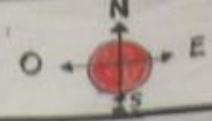


Community midwife
meeting





CROQUIS DE TOTOLYÁ



REFERENCIAS:

- SECTOR 1
- SECTOR 2
- CASA DEL F.C.
- CASA DEL VIGILANTE
- CASA DE LA COMADRONA
- CASA DEL ALCALDE AUXILIAR
- TIENDA
- IGLESIA
- ESCUELA
- SALON COMUNAL
- CAMPO DE FUTBOL
- BANQUE AGUA
- BIENES PRINCIPALES
- BIENES MONITOREADOS
- CRECE BIEN
- BIENES MENORES DE UN AÑO
- BIENES PUÉRPERAS
- BIENES EMBARAZADAS



A PATIOL
 CARRETERA ASFALTADA
 A SAN MARCOS
 Km. 157

Life saving skills (LSS)

- Competency based training program that equips midwives with the skills to intervene in the top five life threatening maternal conditions including obstetrical hemorrhage, obstructed labor, obstetric sepsis, hypertensive disorders and complications of unsafe abortion.
- Classroom and clinical training.



PRAYER
AGENDA

Sada



LSS - Objectives

- Increase trained health workers skills in managing complications
- Increase referral facilities ability to provide emergency obstetrical care.

Audience: Trained health workers in referral facilities—hospitals, health centers

Participants & Facilitators

USAID

Sponsored Tacmil Health Project.

Organized & Conducted

Memorial Christian Hospital

SIALKOT.

October 20 to November 7, 20





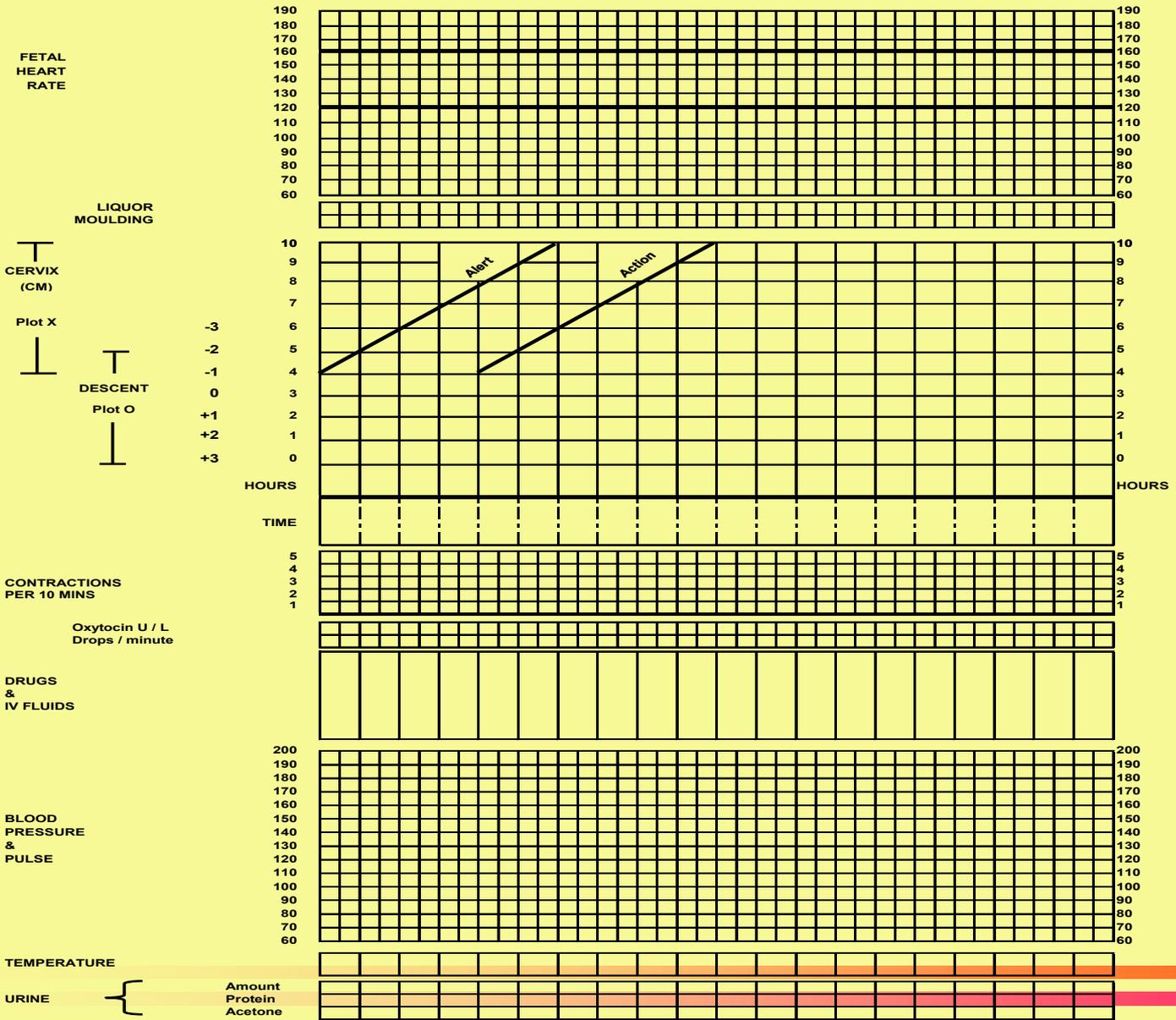
Partograph

A tool developed by the WHO to monitor, document and manage labor.

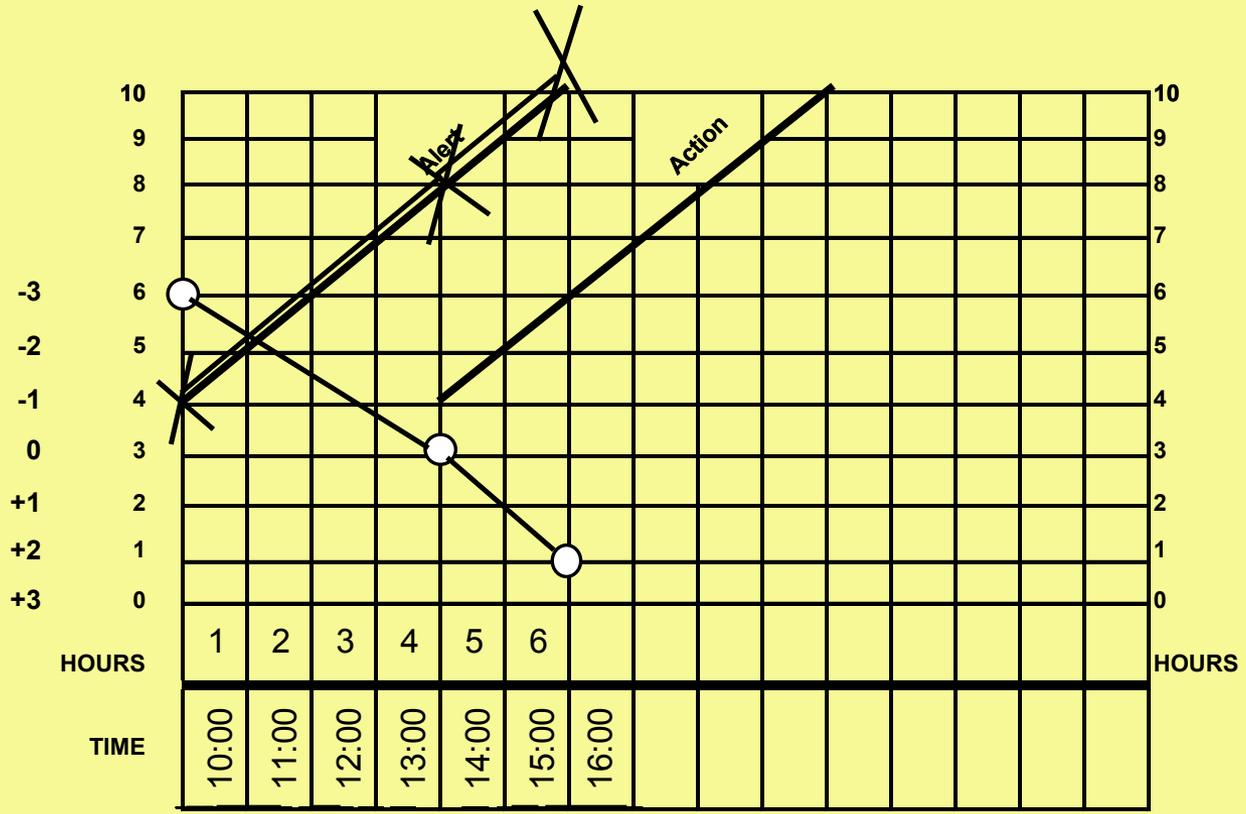
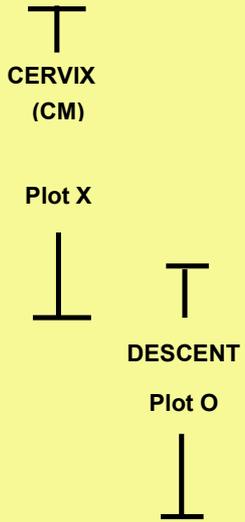
- Gives a complete picture of how the mother, baby and labor progress are doing.
- Provides guidelines on when labor is no longer "normal" and on management for those situations.
- Helps give continuity of care

PARTOGRAPH

Registration No. _____ Name (Last, First) _____ Age _____
 Date _____ Gravida/Parity _____ / _____ LMP _____ EDD _____ Gestation (wks) _____
 ROM (Time, Date) _____ / _____ Labour Duration (Hrs) _____ Facility/Clinic Name _____



Partograph Protocol - Case Study 1



Kangaroo care/skin-to-skin

- Keeps mother and baby together
- Prevents heat loss in newborn—the best incubator is the mother
- Supports early and on-demand breast feeding
- Reduces fear/anxiety

Immediate skin to skin--<30
seconds









Strengthening professional associations

- Recognition for midwives in often hostile environments
- Offers international linkages—ICM
International Confederation of Midwives,
partner programs
- Provides a forum for peer education and connections
- Gains respect for the profession

New midwifery association in post- conflict Afghanistan

Midwives quickly
took up the
challenge of caring
for women,
educating
themselves and new
students under
extremely
challenging
circumstances.

Regional support
from Pakistan



In a culture of ignoring women--

- No midwives on "High Level Midwifery Task Force" in Cambodia
- A group from MoH may not be able to speak to a midwife, but *can* speak to the president of the midwifery association

Midwifery leaders in Pakistan



Developing education competencies for midwifery



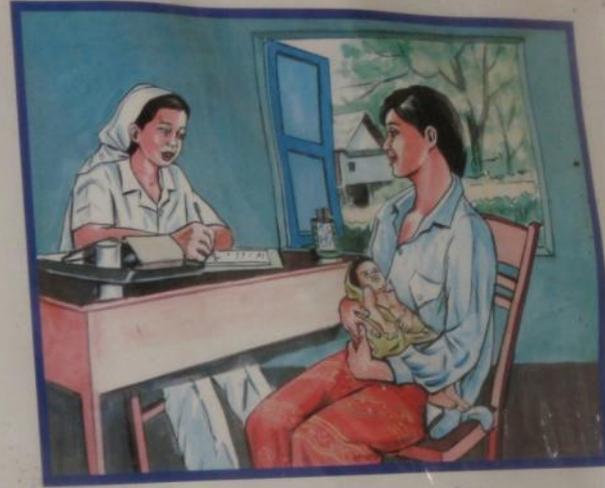
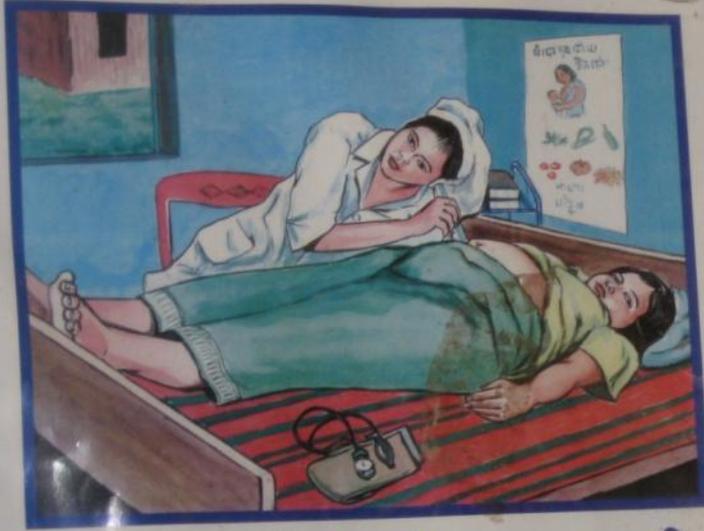
Meanwhile back with the midwife...

Women keep having babies

Midwives accompany them in pregnancy,
labor, birth, postpartum and birth
spacing....

Kao delivered 72 babies last month—alone





ស្ត្រីមានផ្ទៃពោះ និង ស្ត្រីសំរាលកូនរួចក្រោមអាទិត្យ
ត្រូវទៅកាន់មន្ទីរពេទ្យ ឬ មណ្ឌលសុខភាពដែលនៅជិតជាងគេដើម្បីពិនិត្យសុខភាព



P-012

A midwife on every street: Indonesian midwife's office



Nepali student midwives: uniforms level the differences





Dona Guadalupe, Gloria, Dona Maria





Dona Victoria



In closing...

Working to prevent maternal deaths is not an act of benevolence towards women because they are mothers, but the duty of all who respect human rights, which includes the right of women to life. ... M. Cham

Useful sites

- www.internationalmidwives.org
- http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/global_monitoring/skilled_attendant.html
- <http://www.paho.org>
- <http://www.midwives.org>
- <http://www.hesperian.org/index.htm>