

FOREWORD

PPAZ and JOICFP has recorded remarkable achievements in the implementation of safe motherhood initiatives around the Masaiti District of Copperbelt through addressing the three delays of maternal mortality in Zambia. The organizations south to south collaboration has embraced the safe motherhood initiative and is in the forefront of accelerating implementation of health development goals in Zambia and making sure that no woman dies while giving life. The Two organization has invested hugely in educating and empowering the people to make informed choices regarding sexual and reproductive health, through consistent reinforcement of the importance of family planning, capacity building of services providers and building cost effective maternity waiting houses which linking expecting mothers to maternity services.

The partnership has taken great care to incorporate national and international directives into its own programming. PPAZ and JOICFP Maternal Child Health strategic direction includes creating an environment where:

- Every woman of childbearing age has the right to obtain optimal health care throughout pregnancy and childbirth for herself and her newborns.
- Every woman is empowered to demand quality, safe and respectful motherhood services and to help encourage other women to do the same.
- Education programmes which stress the key principles of safe motherhood are available to all women and their partners, families and support groups.
- Every woman and newborn has access to essential and life-saving services and appropriate information about safe motherhood.
- All women, men, families and friends come together as active members in the safe motherhood movement, with the knowledge to make decisions that promote safe motherhood within their own communities, work places and surroundings.
- All communities, organizations, groups, corporate bodies and NGOs work together to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS, violence against women and children, and gender inequalities, all of which can impact on safe motherhood.
- The government works in collaboration with women, their communities and other stakeholders in setting enabling policies and implementing programmes in support of safe motherhood.

A key part of our strategic intent is a strong focus on commitment, mobilization and accountability. We hope that the guide could be utilized for construction of facilities with capacity building for community development and look forward to join efforts with everyone to ensure that no woman dies while giving life.

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INTRODUCTION

What is this book?

This book was written to share the design and know-how for building a Maternity Waiting House from an old shipping container. A Maternity Waiting House is a building that provides accommodation found next to a facility where there are professionals on hand to ensure safe childbirth. They are constructed in an effort to reduce the maternal mortality rate in places where access to such facilities is difficult. Women can stay at these houses for many days prior to their expected delivery date to ensure access to the services once labor begins.

Why this book?

To establish as many Maternity Waiting Houses as possible, and quickly, the project design supervision costs must be reduced to allow local communities to build them without the help of outside experts. Without addressing certain key points at the planning stages, however, including placement, layout, ventilation, and lighting, communities could end up with buildings that are inconvenient and hard to use. This book explains what is important in designing a Maternity Waiting House, and has been written so that it is easy for anyone to understand.

What will this result in?

By making the design and knowhow for building a Maternity Waiting House widely available, this information can be easily communicated to others so that more people in more places will be able to take the initiative to deal with their own problems. Wisdom is a resource that never runs out, and the aim of this book is to share this information with the world and bring happiness to all.