

A UNIVERSAL PATHWAY. A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO HEALTH



KEY MESSAGES

The report shows that:

- 1** The 73 Countdown countries included in the report account for more than **92% OF GLOBAL MATERNAL AND NEWBORN DEATHS AND STILLBIRTHS** but have only **42% OF THE WORLD'S MEDICAL, MIDWIFERY AND NURSING PERSONNEL**.



Within these countries, workforce deficits are often most acute in areas where maternal and newborn mortality rates are highest.

- 2** **ONLY 4 OF THE 73 COUNTRIES** have a midwifery workforce that is able to meet the universal need for the 46 essential interventions for sexual, reproductive, maternal and newborn health.



- 3** Countries are endeavouring to expand and deliver equitable midwifery services, but **COMPREHENSIVE, DISAGGREGATED DATA** for determining the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of the midwifery workforce **ARE NOT AVAILABLE**.

- 4** Midwives who are educated and regulated to international standards can provide **87% OF THE ESSENTIAL CARE** needed for women and newborns.



- 5** In order for midwives to work effectively, **FACILITIES NEED TO BE EQUIPPED TO OFFER THE APPROPRIATE SERVICES**, including for emergencies (safe blood, caesarean sections, newborn resuscitation).

- 6** Accurate data on the midwifery workforce enable countries to plan effectively. This requires **A MINIMUM OF 10 PIECES OF INFORMATION THAT ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD COLLECT**: headcount, percentage time spent on SRMNH, roles, age distribution, retirement age, length of education, enrolments into, attrition and graduation from education, and voluntary attrition from the workforce.

- 7** Legislation, regulation and licensing of midwifery allow midwives to provide the high-quality care they are educated to deliver and thus protects women's health. High-quality midwifery care for women and newborns saves lives and **CONTRIBUTES**



TO HEALTHY FAMILIES AND MORE PRODUCTIVE COMMUNITIES.

- 8** The returns on investment are a "best buy":
- Investing in midwifery education, with deployment to community-based services, could yield a **16-FOLD RETURN ON INVESTMENT** in terms of lives saved and costs of caesarean sections avoided, and is **A "BEST BUY" IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**.



- Investing in midwives frees doctors, nurses and other health cadres to focus on other health needs, and contributes to achieving a grand convergence:



reducing infections, **ENDING PREVENTABLE MATERNAL MORTALITY** and **ENDING PREVENTABLE NEWBORN DEATHS**.