



SAVING LIVES OF MOTHERS & INFANTS IN ZANZIBAR PRELIMINARY RESULTS April, 2012

Dear Friends,

I want to thank the many supporters who have contributed to our web campaign on Global Giving <http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/safedelivery/>. I thought you might be interested in the preliminary results from this project which we have just put together. For those of you who have already contributed, THANK YOU. For those of you who have not yet contributed, the deadline for this campaign is April 30, and your contribution will help continue the work outlined below.

Executive Summary

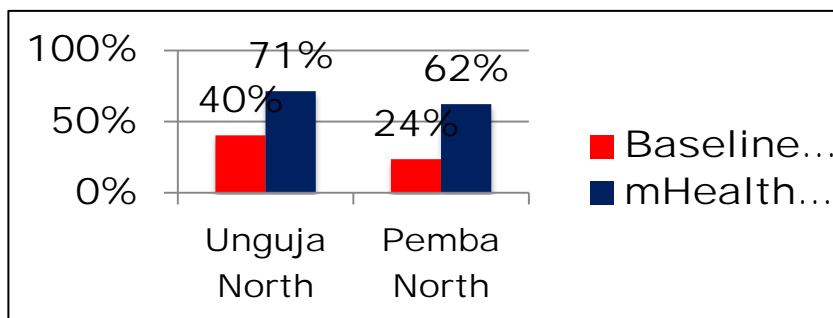
With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, D-tree International successfully implemented a pilot project in Zanzibar Tanzania to achieve safer deliveries. The project was begun in November 2011 and uses an open source mobile health (mHealth) application to reduce the informational, logistical, and financial barriers to in-facility births and post-partum care. The project has trained 24 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) from the pilot areas of *North A District* and *Micheweni District* in the use of the mHealth application. The TBAs successfully registered 682 pregnant mothers, of which 211 delivered during this period. Between November 2011 and April 2012, health facilities and hospitals in the project areas saw their in-facility delivery rates more than double on average. Additionally, there were no maternal deaths recorded among the registered mothers.



TBA registering a pregnant mother using the mHealth application

Results

Of the 211 mothers who delivered during the project's implementation, 143 (67.7%) gave birth in health facilities. In North A, 90 (71.4%) of the 126 births occurred in a health facility, and in



Micheweni, 53 (62.3%) of the 85 births occurred in a health facility. It should also be noted that all of the mothers interviewed who gave birth at home, said that they gave birth before the car could arrive to take them to the hospital. These particular mothers also noted that it was due more to their calling the car

late into their labor than due to the cars taking a long time to arrive. An additional 100 mothers are in their eighth or ninth month of pregnancy, which indicates that this volume of births is likely to increase.

Perhaps more compelling than the statistics are the individual cases where the project has impacted mothers and infants lives. The following are two such case stories.

Case 1: Caesarean Section Needed

One mother interviewed gave birth to twins via caesarean section at the hospital. Up until delivery she was unaware that she was pregnant with twins. She told D-tree staff that if she was not registered with the project, she or her babies might not be alive today. Once she began laboring her family called the TBA and the TBA quickly arranged for transport. The mother was transferred to the local hospital. However, she began to have problems with her blood pressure and the hospital staff transferred her to the larger hospital where they successfully performed a caesarean section. She successfully gave birth to two healthy baby boys, but was kept at the hospital for 5 days for continued evaluation. She says that had she not been in the project, she would have given birth at home, and was not sure if they would have found transport in time once she began to have problems with her blood pressure. However, because she was able to go to the hospital early, she received the care and treatment she needed to give birth to twins safely.



Case 2: High Fever After Delivery

Another mother interviewed delivered while waiting for the car to arrive to take her to the hospital. She indicated that it was not so much that the car was late to arrive, as it was that they waited too long before calling the TBA to arrange the transportation. This mother successfully gave birth at home, and even though the car had arrived, her family decided not to go to the hospital because both baby and mother were fine. However, the day after delivery the mother came down with a very high fever. She was shaking uncontrollably, and her family called the TBA. The TBA was able to quickly arrange transport for the mother. She was transported to the hospital with her baby, where she received treatment for her fever. As before, she indicated that had transport not been available free of charge, her family would have waited longer to before seeking out transport on their own. The mother was discharged after 5 days and both mother and baby are well.

Your generous donations to this project on Global Giving will continue to make the life-saving services available to women and newborns on Zanzibar. On behalf of the project beneficiaries, and D-tree International, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Mitchell, M.D., M.S
President, D-tree International