

**Program title:** Safer Deliveries (Uzazi Salama in Swahili)

**Donor(s):** Saving Lives at Birth partners (USAID, the Government of Norway, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, and the UK Government); the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

**Start and end dates:** November 2010 – October 2014 & May 2015 May 2019

**Total number of beneficiaries (direct and indirect):** To date, the program has enrolled over 15,000 women and ensured that over 75% of them delivered at a health facility. This intervention will be scaled up across Zanzibar, working with approximately 400 community health workers and reaching 30,000 women per year.

**Location:** Zanzibar, Tanzania (10 out of 11 districts)

**Local partners or other organizations involved with the program:** Zanzibar Ministry of Health, Zantel (local telecom company)

### Safer Deliveries



**In Zanzibar, despite high rates of antenatal care and relatively good access to health facilities, over half of deliveries occur at home and maternal and neonatal deaths remain unacceptably high. Delivering in a health facility is an important step in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality.**

The Safer Deliveries program employs a comprehensive approach to empower women, with the support of their families, to deliver in health facilities. This is achieved through an integrated strategy which includes linkages between the pregnant women and community health workers (CHWs), community drivers, village savings groups and health facilities. These systems are supported by the use of mobile technology to facilitate better decision making, sending of mobile money and remote supervision. The program provides pregnant women with home visits by trained community health workers equipped with mobile decision support tools, at least 3 times during pregnancy and 3 times after delivery to:

- Engage husbands and family members in the birth planning process and record permission in advance for a facility delivery
- Develop a birth plan with the woman and her family based on medical and obstetric history
- Support the woman and her family to save appropriate money for transportation and other delivery-related expenses
- Screen for danger signs and make referrals to the relevant health facility

- Counsel the woman and her family about healthy behaviors

Women are also provided with access to short term loans, which can be used to pay for



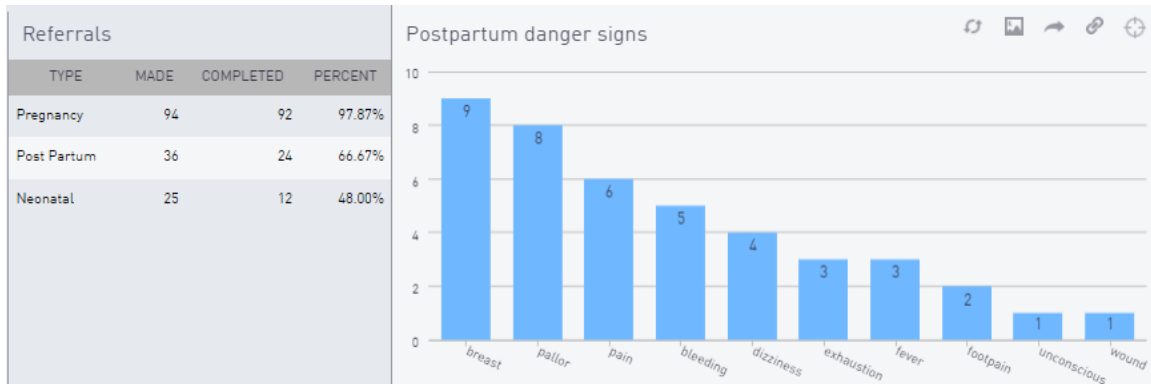
transportation and other delivery-related expenses, through participation in village savings groups and a network of registered community drivers who transport women to health facilities during delivery.

### **Improved health systems**

D-tree is collaborating closely with the Zanzibar Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to integrate the Safer Deliveries program into the government system, share programmatic data to support decision-making, and improve health systems. The Safer Deliveries program is part of the Plans of Action for all districts in Zanzibar, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Zanzibar Ministry of Health formalizes the commitment of the Ministry to funding and integrating the Safer Deliveries program into its future plans. Data from the Safer Deliveries program around client experiences at health facilities is discussed regularly with District Health Management teams and community-level data is shared with the Ministry for incorporation into the Health Management Information System.

### **Data for decision-making**

One benefit of mobile systems is real-time access to data for decision-making. Sections of the community health worker and supervisor mobile applications display community health worker performance to support supervision. Through programmatic dashboards, D-tree and the Ministry of Health are able to view and analyze data for decision-making to monitor program performance, track indicators and review health outcomes. The program uses mobile money to pay community health workers and supervisors monthly based on a pay for performance scheme calculated through the program dashboard.



Dashboard screenshots illustrating data to support decision-making

### Sustained impact

Safer Deliveries is building off of a successful previous phase of the program that supported over 14,000 women to have safe deliveries. In this phase, approximately 75% of women registered in the program deliver in a health facility compared to approximately 50% of the general population based on available data. The program is currently scaling up to 10 out of 11 districts in Zanzibar. Working with approximately 400 CHWs and 60 supervisors the program aims to reach 30,000 women per year (85% of all pregnant women in areas of program implementation). In the prior phase, the program was paying for the cost of transport to health facilities for routine and emergency deliveries and other complications during pregnancy. In order to ensure the sustainability of the program, CHWs now help families save the funds needed for transport themselves and have been able to maintain the high rates of facility based delivery. This is a major program shift that reduces program reliance on external funding and huge step towards cost effectiveness.

### Challenges

Like all programs, Safer Deliveries/Uzazi Salama has faced many challenges. One has been the need for self-contained power in rural areas where electricity is scarce to non-existent. To address this, we have partnered with Little Sun, a global company based in Germany to provide health workers with low cost reliable solar chargers for their phones.

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