

Abstract

Reducing Maternal Mortality and Morbidity by Mainstreaming Equity and Human Rights

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The death of more than half a million women each year from preventable complications of pregnancy and childbearing is a significant human rights issue. Saving the lives of these women is a priority action area for UNFPA. In addition to the denial of a woman's right to life and health, among others, maternal death often compromises the rights of the rest of the family, as it may lead to family impoverishment and siblings being obliged to assume household responsibilities and drop out of school. Safe motherhood is also closely linked to newborn health. Access to health care, including reproductive health, is a basic right under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Article 12 requires states to eliminate discrimination in access to health services throughout the life cycle, particularly in the areas of family planning, pregnancy and confinement, and the post-natal period.

Using data of WHO and other agencies the author established link of this serious problem to the Human Rights. Hundreds of millions of women and children have no access to potentially life-saving care with often fatal results Every minute a woman dies as a result of pregnancy or childbirth.. In most cases these amount to violations of women's rights to life, health, non-discrimination, and equality. The scale of avoidable maternal mortality is a human rights catastrophe.

The author conclude in order to reduce maternal mortality regional governments and the international community must create programs of health care and increase the number of medical and nursing students. The resulting death toll could be sharply reduced through wider use of key interventions and a "continuum of care" approach for mother and child that begin before pregnancy and extends through childbirth and into the baby's childhood. The paper discusses with implementation of Human Rights.