



REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY: PARTNERING TO SAVE LIVES

Partnering to Save Lives brought together the Australian Government, NGOs and the Cambodian Ministry of Health with the aim of saving the lives of mothers and babies by improving the quality, access and use of reproductive, maternal and newborn health services.

CARE played a key role in improving access to quality health services for women in remote areas of north-eastern Cambodia and engaging with migrant women employed in garment factories to improve their ability to make informed reproductive health choices.

Over the past ten years, Cambodia has made significant progress towards improving health outcomes of the general population. However, the number of mothers dying in childbirth (170 per 100,000 births) and newborn deaths (35 per 1000 births) remain high, particularly in underserved areas such as the rural north-east.

The PSL partnership targeted the most vulnerable groups including ethnic minority communities, young migrant garment factory workers, and women with disabilities.

CARE worked with frontline health service providers to strengthen health systems and improve quality of care, including training midwives and improving referral systems. Using innovative techniques in both community and factory settings, CARE encouraged behavioural change and increased demand for reproductive health services.

The partnership contributed to the objectives of Cambodia's Fast Track Initiative Road Map for Reducing Maternal and Newborn Mortality 2016-2020 (FTIRMN).

What has CARE achieved as a result of *Partnering to Save Lives*?

78,000



WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE
in Cambodia estimated to have been impacted by improved health information and services as a result of CARE's work.

200+



FRONTLINE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS in north-east Cambodia coached in improved antenatal, delivery, and newborn care.

27,000



GARMENT FACTORY WORKERS reached with key reproductive health information via *Chat! Contraception*, which was developed under PSL.

87



COMMUNITY DISCUSSION GROUPS formed to enable access & understanding of key health information for men & women from ethnic minority communities.

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH SERVICES FOR ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN

-  Language
-  Lack of finances
-  Distance, geography & availability of transport
-  Social preconceptions among health staff
-  Inconsistent service availability

CARE's focus under *Partnering to Save Lives*

STRENGTHENING HEALTH SERVICES

CARE collaborated with Provincial Health Departments, Operational Districts and referral hospitals to capacity build health professionals and ensure quality health services in areas serving ethnic minority communities. This was achieved through a combination of Midwifery Coordination Alliance Teams, clinical training, on-site coaching, soft skills training for clinical staff and improved referral linkages from communities to health centres.

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO ACCESS & INCREASING DEMAND

CARE worked with community volunteers and established Listening & Dialogue Groups to provide an opportunity for vulnerable and marginalised groups in the community to discuss issues such as preparing for birth, antenatal care, delivery, postnatal care, danger signs for both mothers and newborns, and breastfeeding. Specific men's clubs were also established to engage men in supporting their partners in reproductive, maternal and neonatal health.

An alliance of traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and midwives promoted delivery at health facilities. To address financial barriers, these community-based volunteers provided transport vouchers in hard-to-reach communities, while Village Savings & Loans groups supported families to save.

ACCESS TO MODERN CONTRACEPTIVES & SAFE ABORTION

Under PSL, CARE created *Chat! Contraception*. This package uses innovative approaches such as activity-based sessions, video dramas, and a mobile quiz app to challenge and engage male and female garment factory workers. This encourages them to adopt healthy behaviours and has improved uptake of appropriate health services such as modern contraception and safe abortion. This approach won the CARE USA Scale X Design challenge for innovation and is being scaled up through private sector partnerships.

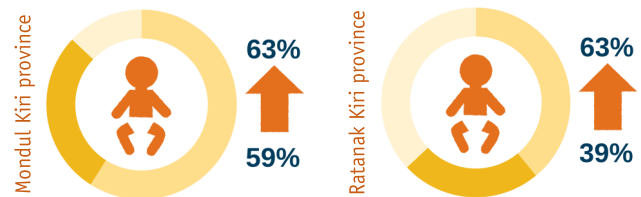


What changes has CARE seen?

CARE's work has contributed to significant increases in women's ability to make informed decisions about their reproductive health and their access to quality health services.

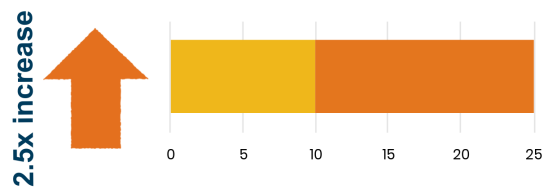
INCREASED ACCESS TO MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES

The % of women delivering with a skilled birth attendant increased considerably in the north-east of Cambodia.



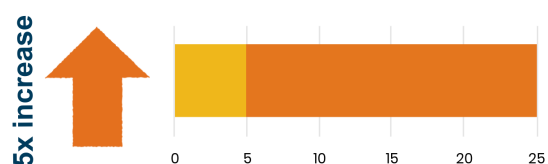
INCREASED DEMAND FOR CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES

The % of female garment factory workers of reproductive age using modern methods of family planning more than doubled.



INCREASED AGENCY IN MAKING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH DECISIONS

There was a fivefold increase in the % of female garment factory workers who feel empowered to discuss and use modern family planning.



Knowledge into policy

CARE gathers evidence of good practice from the local level to inform national health policy.



CARE contributed to the development of **national protocol for Midwifery Coordination Alliance Teams** and supported adoption by the Ministry of Health.



CARE supported development of **National Guidelines for the Establishment of Enterprise Infirmaries** by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training.