“Faith-Based Organizations & Maternal Health”

Case Study – Bangladesh

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Maternal Health in Bangladesh:

- Maternal mortality rate is 348-470 deaths per 100,000 live births
- 85% of women deliver at home
- Only 18% of deliveries are assisted by medically trained personnel
- 33% of adolescent women (15-19) are already mothers
Underlying Causes of Maternal Mortality

- Cultural barriers and traditions
- Lack of decision making authority
- Gender inequalities
- Limited economic opportunities for women
- Poor social participation
- Domestic violence
- Poor infrastructure of medical centers
ADRA’s Approach to Women’s Empowerment

- Develop Civil Society Organizations
- Literacy for women
- Good health practices
- Livelihoods
- Advocacy
- Men’s participation
ADRA’s Response to Maternal Mortality

- Mobilize community to support pregnant women
- Educate families about maternal health issues
- Train Traditional Birth Attendants
- Awareness on family planning
- Improve nutrition
- Hygiene practices improved
Way Forward

- Use of Rights Based Approaches to maternal health versus welfare approaches
- Move from project-oriented activities to local, regional and national level advocacy programs
- Pilot programs implemented by grassroots FBOs and compare impact with secular organizations
HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST

TIME FOR TRUTH
Human Story