Women in sub-Saharan Africa are almost 100 times more likely to die from complications during pregnancy or childbirth than women in developed countries. Just because of where they live, their risk of death is 1 in 39 compared to 1 in 3,800. But while other health crises in Africa like AIDS, Ebola, malaria, poverty, and violence have rightly captured the world’s attention and induced action, the lack of access to critical care for mothers has quietly devastated sub-Saharan communities.

The worst part? Most maternal deaths in these countries could be prevented. The good news is: we have a plan for doing just that.

Our consortium is highly experienced and uniquely positioned to provide a long term, sustainable and permanent solution by building in-country expertise that can replicate itself through the educational and capacity building institutions it will create.

We’ll leverage our experience and expertise to build OB-GYN training programs throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Our consortium, led by the University of Michigan, pairs major U.S. university centers with 10 African universities and hospitals to build permanent, high-impact post-graduate training programs in obstetrics, gynecology, and midwifery. The resulting system of care integrates human resources, infrastructure, and technology to ensure better outcomes for mothers and their children.

We will combine obstetrics and midwifery with a core curriculum of open-source materials from the Global Library of Women’s Medicine to create interdisciplinary training programs that combine evidence-based clinical and surgical care with team training, communication, certification, quality improvement, and policy work.
Strategic partnerships will help maximize our impact. World Vision is a global relief and development organization whose extensive networks will help us reach underserved communities. Civana, which creates collaboration tools for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, will design an innovative networking and management platform to reach those beyond our 10 initial sites. The Global Library for Women’s Medicine will provide free education materials to obstetricians, midwives, health workers, and communities. By providing appropriate care to women in urban and rural areas, we will reduce maternal mortality rates and ensure better outcomes for mothers, babies and families throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Our goal is to bring professional, high-caliber, modern obstetric care to women in the places where they live, therefore breaking down barriers every single day.

And there’s more that sets our plan apart:

» Our ability to leverage existing colleges, medical schools, professional organizations, and ministries in-country allows us to implement solutions on day one.

» The University of Michigan has sustained partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa that span decades with proven results.

» Our model is equitable. Women in sub-Saharan Africa will receive care that is on par with care received by women in developed nations.

» The Ghana-Michigan program has helped create the systems that trained over 250 OB-GYNs that have stayed in the country.

» By combining human capacity and technology, we can do more to improve maternal and neonatal health than either would do alone and measure the outcomes.

» We will work in countries to build institutional change that is welcomed, wanted, and sustained by women, obstetricians, governments, and Ministries of Health.

» World Vision has established community networks and delivery platforms in over 40 poor countries in the most hard-to-reach geographical areas and where the most vulnerable women and children live.

**WITH $1 million**, WE CAN:

- Convene our partners
- Develop in-country implementation plans with universities, hospitals and governments
- Begin work on community inclusion with World Vision
- Strengthen the Global Library for Women’s Medicine
- Establish the Civana networking platform
- Initiate pilot implementation projects in African sites

**WITH $5 million**, WE CAN:

- Convene our partners
- Develop in-country implementation plans with universities, hospitals and governments
- Begin work on community inclusion with World Vision
- Strengthen the freely available Global Library for Women’s Medicine
- Establish the Civana networking platform
- Initiate pilot implementation projects in African sites
- Strengthen the coordinating Hub

PLUS

- Choose 2-3 of the most ready sites to begin OB-GYN and midwife training programs
- Increase education care to pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa

**WITH $10 million**, WE CAN:

- Convene all our partners annually for 3-5 years
- Convene in-country and regional workshops for planning, implementation, and evaluation
- Support African OB-GYN and Midwife Faculty development
- Complete the OB-GYN, Midwifery and Community training component of the Global Library of Women’s Medicine with wide dissemination
- Fully implement the Civana Networking platform, and invite unfunded partnerships to join
- Further fund promising sites in the full initiation of OB-GYN Midwifery and Community education, training and integration
- Expand World Vision’s engagement with communities

*This project can be fully implemented at all sites with $10 million, as originally proposed to Macarthur 100&Change program.

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