

The original version of this article was developed and posted on 30 April 2014 on the International Confederation of Midwives blog, which can be found [here](#). This is an adapted version of this article.

“I Feel Proud to Be Making a Difference as a Midwife!”



Kingsley (L) in the maternity ward with a proud new father (R)

Kingsley Musama is a direct-entry male midwife, who has been working for four years under the Ministry of Health. He is the only midwife available at the Chikwa Rural Health Center in Chama District, Eastern Province, with a population catchment of 11,880. Being the only midwife in the area, Kingsley also provides midwifery services at four other clinics.

“I work in a very remote and poor area, thus I came up with an initiative we call ‘community midwifery’ – where we take midwifery services directly to the communities.

This initiative has saved many women from dying due to pregnancy complications,” said Kingsley.

In addition to midwifery services, Kingsley also provides family planning counselling, breast cancer awareness and reproductive health education to women and families in the community. He also has set up reproductive health focus groups in his community—where he educates mothers on safe motherhood and encourages exclusive breastfeeding. His contribution has helped reduce the maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity levels in Chama District and Eastern Province as a whole. He is also working with Community Based Volunteers to encourage women to deliver in health facilities, and not at home. *“I feel proud to be making a difference as a midwife,”* said Kingsley.

Kingsley has changed the lives of many families in his area. Couples, women and girls come to consult Kingsley during the antenatal and postnatal period. He also advises couples on contraception and health education.

“However, there are many challenges that I’m facing in my everyday work: lack of electricity, shortage of equipment and no motorbikes to take women to the nearest health facilities. I would like to help as many women as possible, despite all the difficulties,” said Kingsley.

When asked about what a typical day at work is like for him, Kingsley highlights, *“Being the only skilled personnel at the clinic, I work almost 24 hours a day. My day starts at 04:00 a.m. I start with conducting Manual Vacuum Aspirations (MVAs) until 06:00 a.m. After that I attend to Out Patient Department (OPD) patients—about 85 to 90 patients until 14:00 hrs. from 14:00 hrs. onwards, I attend to Maternal and Child Health (MCH), family planning, antenatal and postnatal clients. However, if there is a woman who is about to deliver, I stop whatever I am doing and attend to her.”*

Thinking ahead, Kingsley would like to pursue and advance his midwifery education. “I have greatly benefited from the ‘Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care’ trainings under the [H4+](#) Programme which is jointly supported by [UNAIDS](#), [UNFPA](#), [UNICEF](#), [UN Women](#), [WHO](#), and the [World Bank](#), and funded by the [Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada](#). I have also benefited from several training programs on ‘Helping Babies Breathe’ under the Midwives Association of Zambia,” said Kingsley. He aims to reach and help as many families as possible in his community, and continue making a difference in their lives. He encourages as many people as possible, especially men, to join the midwifery profession – as this will contribute to saving the lives of women and babies and dispelling the myth that men are not preferred by women as midwives.

[Original blog post by the International Confederation of Midwives \(ICM\) is here.](#)

Update: At the [30th Triennial Congress of the International Confederation of Midwives \(ICM\)](#) in Prague (1-5 June 2014), Kingsley Musama was the first male midwife to receive ICM’s Marie Goubran Award for Excellency in Leadership, which was given to him during the ICM opening ceremony (Photo [here](#)).

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