**Key Results:**

- **610,305** women reached between 2013-2014 through country programs in India, Uganda and the U.S.
- **60,095** newborns reached through safe deliveries in **Merck for Mothers**-supported facilities in Uganda
- Decrease in maternal mortality ratios by **35%** percent and by **30%** in target facilities in Zambia and Uganda respectively in 2013, (the first year of implementing the Saving Mothers, Giving Life program in those two countries)
- Major projects implemented in Brazil, India, Senegal, Uganda, U.S., and Zambia; additional projects in 24 countries across the globe

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**MERCK FOR MOTHERS IS A 10-YEAR, $500 million initiative focused on creating a world where no woman has to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth.**

Drawing on the company’s history of discovering innovative, life-saving medicines and vaccines, **Merck for Mothers** is applying Merck’s scientific and business expertise – as well as its financial resources and experience in taking on tough global healthcare challenges – to reduce maternal mortality around the world.

**Merck for Mothers** was the company’s groundbreaking response to the slow progress being made to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 relating to maternal mortality, and the devastating impact of maternal deaths on families and economies around the world. Merck saw an opportunity to lend its expertise and to take a leadership role, leveraging its business mindset as an essential ingredient to accelerate progress in ending preventable deaths.

The initiative aims to create a broad-based collaboration to develop game-changing maternal health technologies for widespread use in resource-poor settings. Key interventions include: improving the quality and supply of diagnostic, prevention and treatment interventions for post-partum hemorrhage and pre-eclampsia; strengthening medical education for skilled birth attendants, developing sustainable models for health delivery and expanding access to family planning.

The initiative is guided by an internal steering committee and an external advisory board and utilizes independent monitoring and evaluation services.

[everywomaneverychild.org](http://everywomaneverychild.org)
PARTNERSHIPS

With Ferring Pharmaceuticals and the World Health Organization, Merck is exploring solutions to address two of the leading causes of maternal death: postpartum hemorrhage and preeclampsia. One of our collaborations is focused on advancing a new, proprietary room-temperature-stable formulation of carbetocin, used to prevent excessive bleeding.

Merck for Mothers is a co-founder of Saving Mothers, Giving Life, another public-private partnership with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Every Mother Counts, the Government of Norway, Project C.U.R.E., and the U.S. government. It builds on existing HIV/AIDS and maternal and child health platforms in Sub-Saharan Africa and aims to reduce delays faced by women in seeking services, reaching services, and receiving quality care.

With the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Merck for Mothers has formed an eight-year, $50 million collaboration to expand access to family planning. The company has launched an initial project with IntraHealth International and the Senegalese government to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate in Senegal from 12.3% to 27%, dramatically reducing stock out rates and increasing consumption.

LESSONS LEARNED

Merck's scientific approach is to build a living laboratory to cultivate sustainable, evidence-based solutions that save women's lives. The company designs, tests, and advocates for the scale-up of high-impact, high-need interventions that improve maternal health. An external evaluator is working with the company to closely monitor and discover what works and to learn what doesn't, recognizing that failure is an essential part of the rapid learning and testing cycle.

NEXT STEPS

Merck for Mothers will continue to assess opportunities to bring the “best of Merck” to developing or advancing sustainable solutions. The company aims to expand its focus on new and neglected areas, tapping into the potential of the local private sector.