



Delivering Hope
INTERNATIONAL

Our Mission:

Delivering Hope International exists to bring hope, healing, and compassion to those most vulnerable in our world. Compelled by Christ's love we improve maternal, newborn, and child health, and promote family preservation and the prevention of orphans.

The Need in Ethiopia:

Ethiopia has the lowest amount of skilled maternity care coverage of the world.

90% of Ethiopian women deliver without the aid of a skilled birth attendant.

80% of Ethiopians live in hard-to-reach areas, which makes it hard for them to access professional health care. Furthermore, in a country of over 80 million, there are only 2,152 physicians—one for every 36,000 people.

Ethiopia has one of the highest Maternal Mortality Rates in the world, at 350 deaths/100,000. For comparison, the US has 24 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

Ethiopia's children are 30 times more likely to die before the age of five than a child in Western Europe.

1 in 11 Ethiopian children will die by the age of 5. The deaths of these children account for 46% of total recorded deaths in all of Ethiopia.

A great majority of these deaths are preventable; however, with nearly 80% of health care occurring within the home, without the help of a skilled health worker, many children die at home unnecessarily.

Our Solution:

Delivering Hope is the first organization to introduce the use of doulas in solving many of the problems surrounding birth, maternity, and newborn care in Ethiopia.

By improving maternal health and nutrition during pregnancy through antenatal care, ensuring safe and clean delivery, and providing immediate postnatal care, it is estimated we could prevent nearly 75% of neonatal deaths, more than 50% of deaths in the first year of life, and 99% of maternal deaths.

Doulas can help achieve these improvements by working at the community level, providing relevant health education, promoting all levels of skilled maternity care, and improving the early detection and management of health problems for both mothers and newborns.

Doulas are a highly effective and low cost way to improve maternal health, decrease maternal and child mortality, and provide women with dignified, kind, and compassionate care.

DHI Doula Program Objectives:

Decrease maternal and infant mortality by working closely with regional health care workers, provide compassionate doula care, improving sanitary birth by providing clean birth kits, and encouraging women to seek ante, intra, and postnatal care.

Reduce obstetric complications via doula assisted births.

Provide health education and awareness to women and communities regarding ante, intra and postnatal care, the female body and reproductive system, and newborn care and health; including breastfeeding and the transmission of HIV from mother to baby.

Reduce the delay in women and newborns receiving emergency health care by visiting and monitoring pregnant and postpartum women and newborns within the home environment and identifying warning signs of complications, illness or infection at an early stage.

Provide compassionate and respectful care through continuous doula support. Via the care of a doula, women experience kind, sympathetic, and dignified emotional and physical support. Doulas also serve as advocates for the care and treatment of their clients and help watch for complications that health staff may miss due to low staffing, overcrowded conditions, or environmental conditions such as low light.

Improve newborn health by encouraging exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and providing lactation support for women who experience difficulties nursing.

Help bridge the gap between unassisted home births and health facility births by encouraging TBAs to remain vital members of the maternity system by training them as doulas.

Share the love of Christ through service, and acts of compassion and kindness. The word "doula" means "woman who serves" in Greek, and we see our Christian doulas as truly being the body of Christ by providing kind, respectful, loving, and sympathetic care to the world's most vulnerable women during one of the most vulnerable and dangerous periods of their lives.



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