



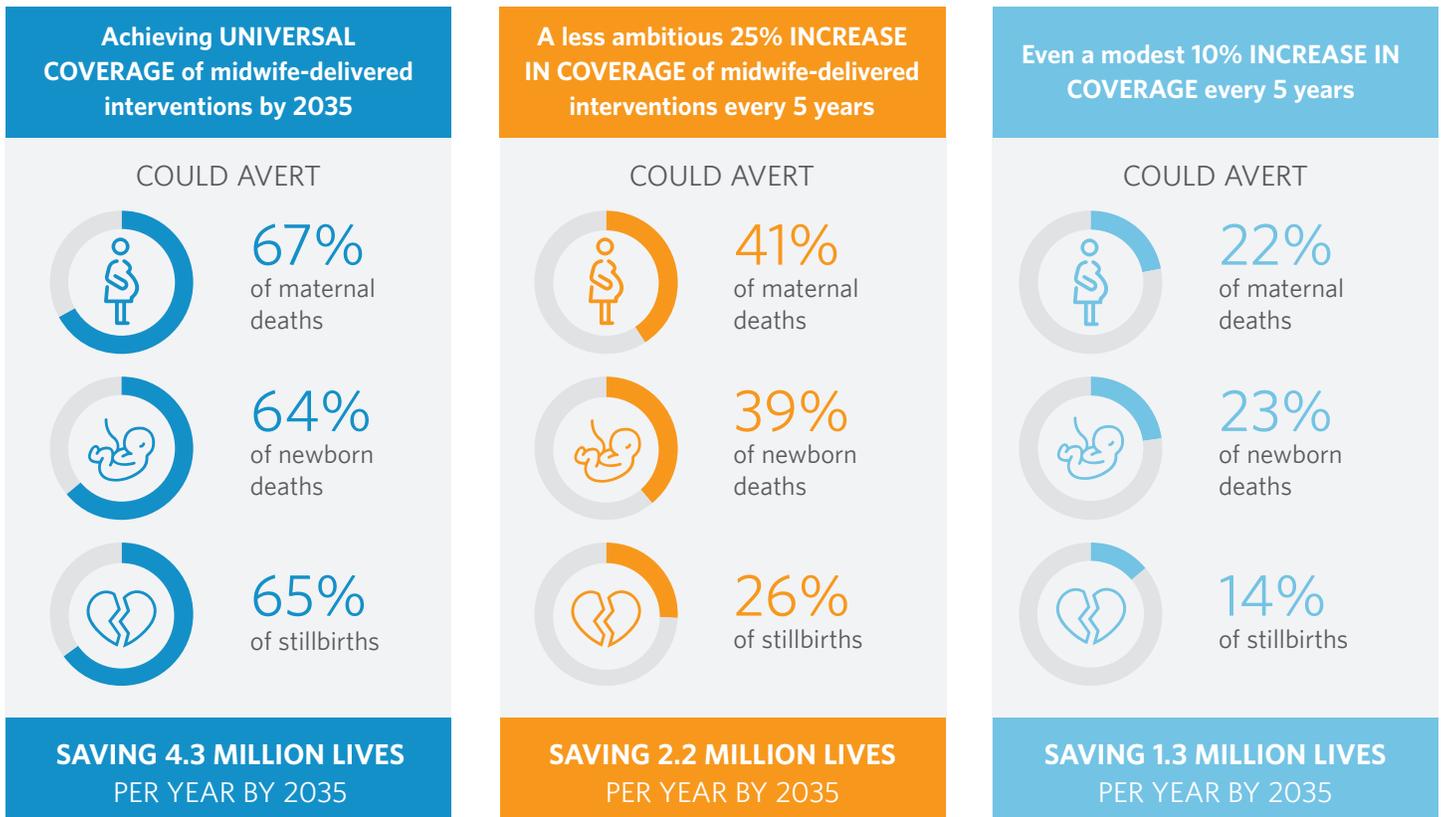
## New study reveals investing in midwives could save millions of lives

A new study published in the Lancet Global Health<sup>1</sup> documents the potential impact of midwives in preventing and reducing maternal and newborn mortality and stillbirths. Led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Confederation of Midwives and the World Health Organization, the study is based on modelled estimates of deaths averted in 88 low- and middle-income countries that account for over 95% of global maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths. These countries have severe health workforce shortages: they are home to 74% of the world's population but just 46% of the world's doctors, nurses and midwives.



### Key findings from the study

Midwives who are **EDUCATED AND REGULATED TO GLOBAL STANDARDS** play a vital role in reducing mortality



1. See: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(20\)30397-1/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(20)30397-1/fulltext)

A small decrease in coverage rates (2% every 5 years) would result in 552,000 more maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths per year than if the 88 countries maintained current rates of coverage of these interventions.



Overall, increased coverage of midwife-delivered interventions, including family planning, would:



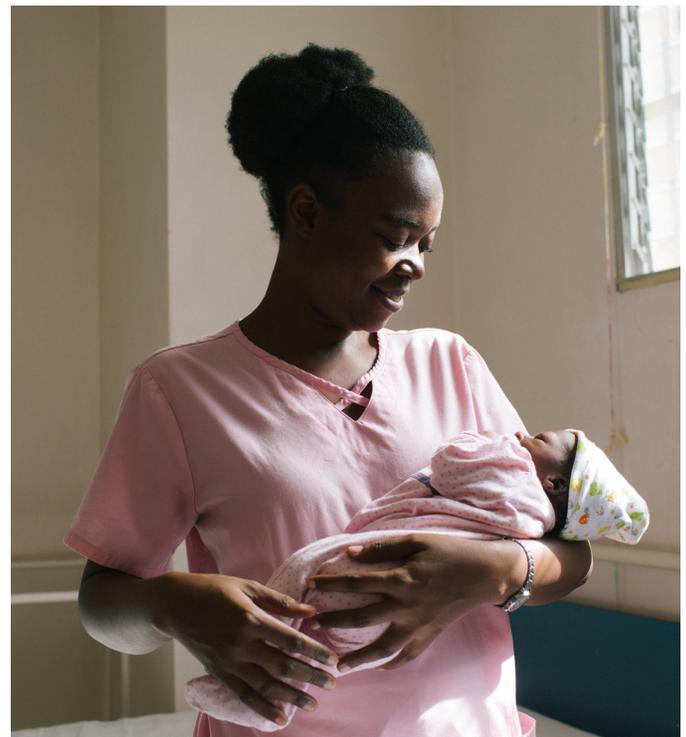
HELP REDUCE  
**the number of abortions**  
from  
40 million  
to 25 million



HELP AVERT  
**44% of infant deaths**  
due to HIV  
from 27,000  
to 15,000



CONTRIBUTE TO  
**healthier families** and more  
**productive communities**  
and to a **health system**  
that can provide effective  
coverage of essential  
sexual, reproductive,  
maternal, newborn and  
adolescent health services.



For midwives to work effectively, investment is needed in their **education, training, regulation** and **working environment**.

For more information about midwives and midwifery see:

<https://www.unfpa.org/midwifery>

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