



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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## NEW CNMF BOARD MEMBER FOR ASIA ANNOUNCED



The CNMF is very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Keerthirathne Wanasekara from the Sri Lanka Nurses Association (SLNA) to complete the term of office vacated by Ms Ramziah Binti Ahmad on her appointment as President of the CNMF. Mr Wanasekara is Secretary of the SLNA.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO VISIT MARGARET BRAYTON



Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses Association took the opportunity to visit Miss Margaret Brayton during their attendance at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Nurses Conference. Miss Margaret Brayton was the first Executive Secretary of the then Commonwealth Nurses Federation and was instrumental in establishing many of the national nursing associations in the Caribbean. Miss Brayton thanked the delegation for remembering her and for the gratitude they expressed to her for her contribution to nursing in the Caribbean. Recounting her visits to Trinidad, Miss Brayton said: "those were the good times". Pictured with Miss Brayton are Mrs Valerie Alleyne-Rawlins, Past President of TTRNA and Head of the TTRNA delegation to the CNF 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Nurses Conference and Mrs Kathy-Ann Greenidge-Ottley, who is TTRNA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

## NEW FILMS FROM GLOBAL HEALTH MEDIA

<http://globalhealthmedia.org/newborn/videos/>

Global Health Media have released a number of new short training films on newborn health care: *Danger signs in newborns* (for health workers); *Warning signs in newborns* (for mothers and caregivers); *Giving good care in labour*; *Examining the placenta*; and *The position of the baby*. All the videos are available for viewing and downloading directly from the Global Health Media website. They can be used as complementary training tools for pre-service and in-service education and are shot and formatted for use on mobile devices.



## AND FROM MEDICAL AID FILMS

<http://medicalaidfilms.org/our-films>

Medical Aid Films has announced a set of six new training films on performing a safe caesarean section in low resource settings. The six films have been made so that health care staff involved in maternity care in low resource settings can understand how to perform caesarean sections in emergency situations. The purpose of the films is to support health workers performing caesarean sections, or currently in training, to enhance their skills and understanding.

Aside from the Introduction (Module 1), the films are currently password protected. Email [info@medicalaidfilms.org](mailto:info@medicalaidfilms.org) to get access to the films or to download versions for free.

- Module 1: Introduction and preparation for surgery
- Module 2: Opening the abdomen and uterus
- Module 3: Delivery
- Module 4: Closure of uterus and abdomen
- Module 5: Complications
- Module 6: Post-operative care



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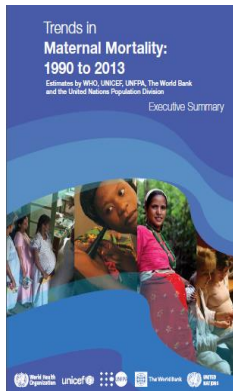


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## LATEST MATERNAL MORTALITY FIGURES

As countries move toward 2015 and the end of the Millennium Development Goals, it is encouraging that many gains have been made but also disturbing to realise how many countries will not meet their goal for reducing maternal morbidity and mortality.



While most countries/regions aspire to achieve MDG5 target 5A by 2015, some countries will be unlikely to attain this goal if current trends persist. *Trends in Maternal Mortality 1990-2013* gives an update of the current situation although the report acknowledges that less than 40% of countries have a complete civil registration system with good attribution of cause of death, which makes it difficult for the accurate measurement of maternal mortality.

<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2013/en/> (2014 estimates by WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the United Nations Population Division)

The fifth MDG aims to improve maternal health, with a target of reducing the MMR by 75% between 1990 and 2015 and a second one on achieving universal access, by 2015, to reproductive health. The report notes that one way to gauge progress is to examine if countries have had the expected average annual MMR decline of 5.5% from 1990 to 2013.

Globally, there were an estimated 289 000 maternal deaths in 2013, a decline of 45% from 1990. The sub-Saharan Africa region alone accounted for 62% (179,000) of global deaths followed by Southern Asia at 24%. At the country level, the two countries that accounted for one third of all global maternal deaths were India at 17% (50 000) and Nigeria at 14% (40 000). The global MMR in 2013 was 210 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, down from 380 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990. The MMR in developing regions (230) was 14 times higher than in developed regions (16). Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest MMR (510).

The report notes that although levels of decline in maternal mortality seen during the past 23 years will not be sufficient to achieve MDG 5, the steady progress indicates that ending preventable maternal mortality is achievable in this lifetime. Of the eleven countries "on track" to meet MDG 5 by 2015, two are Commonwealth countries, Rwanda and the Maldives. Sixty three countries are reported to be making progress and two countries making no progress.

Discussions on the post-2015 UN development agenda are underway and it is critically important that nurses and midwives and their respective associations are involved in these discussions, at the national and regional level, not just the international level. The focus of donor funds post-2015 will be on the new goals and targets and it is critical that maternal and child health are not forgotten.

Trends in estimates of maternal mortality ratio (MMR, maternal deaths per 100 000 live births), 1990–2013, by Commonwealth country

Country	1990	1995	2000	2005	2013
Australia	7	8	9	6	6
Bahamas	43	44	44	40	37
Bangladesh	550	440	340	260	170
Barbados	120	38	42	33	52
Botswana	360	370	390	340	170
Brunei Darussalam	26	25	24	25	27
Cameroon	720	760	740	690	590
Canada	6	7	7	11	11
Cyprus	18	18	16	13	10
Fiji	89	79	72	69	59
Ghana	760	650	570	470	380
Grenada	34	33	29	25	23
Guyana	210	230	240	240	250
India	560	460	370	280	190
Jamaica	98	89	88	85	80
Kenya	490	530	570	550	400
Kiribati	250	240	200	170	130
Lesotho	720	630	680	670	490
Malawi	1100	870	750	570	510
Malaysia	56	45	40	36	29
Maldives	430	210	110	57	31
Malta	12	11	11	9	9
Mauritius	70	68	28	35	73
Mozambique	1300	1100	870	680	480
Namibia	320	280	270	250	130
New Zealand	18	13	12	12	8
Nigeria	1200	1100	950	740	560
Pakistan	400	330	280	230	170
Papua New Guinea	470	370	340	280	220
Rwanda	1400	1400	1000	610	320
St Lucia	60	52	44	39	34
St Vincent and Grenadines	48	72	75	55	45
Samoa	150	110	89	73	58
Sierra Leone	1300	1400	2200	1600	1100
Singapore	8	8	19	10	6
Solomon Islands	320	250	210	170	130
South Africa	150	140	150	160	140
Sri Lanka	49	71	55	41	29
Swaziland	550	480	520	480	310
Tanzania	910	890	770	610	410
Tonga	71	89	91	100	120
Trinidad and Tobago	89	91	59	58	84
Uganda	780	740	650	510	360
United Kingdom	10	11	11	12	8
Vanuatu	170	140	120	100	86
Zambia	580	630	610	430	280
Zimbabwe	520	550	680	740	470

*Trends in Maternal Mortality 1990-2013* pp.31-35

<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/maternal-mortality-2013/en/>