

# Impact Update

May 2025



● Thank you for your incredible support ●



“

**We hope this report shows what's possible—when we act fast, work together, and keep health at the center.**

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Welcome to our latest update on WHO's work in health emergencies and beyond. As you'll see, 2025 has continued to call on all the ingenuity of WHO's dedicated health professionals— and has also shown what's possible when we work together.

From Sudan to Ukraine to Gaza, WHO teams are doing everything they can to ease suffering and bring healthcare to people in crisis. Alongside partners, they're evacuating patients, keeping hospitals open, and helping emergency teams reach those who would otherwise go without care. When Marburg disease broke out in Tanzania in January, WHO was there to help curb the spread. When a devastating earthquake hit Myanmar on March 28, WHO delivered medical supplies within 24 hours. Beyond health emergencies, WHO and its partners are making pregnancy and childbirth safer for women, vaccinating children against life-threatening diseases and finding ways to prevent and improve heart disease, cancer, diabetes and other chronic conditions.

WHO's unique combination of longer-term health planning and rapid emergency response can save a great number of lives—but it depends on steady, reliable funding. Unfortunately, cuts from the United States and other donors have left serious funding gaps. As a consequence, WHO, alongside its partners, are making tough decisions to adapt while continuing to make every effort to reach the most vulnerable people.

Make no mistake, this is a tough year for WHO. Still, I choose hope. Your messages of encouragement and the incredible response to the One World, Health for All movement have been a lifeline.

With gratitude,

**Anil Sonil**  
**CEO, WHO Foundation**





# One World, Rise Up for Health for All

The World Health Organization's emergencies teams work at the sharp end of humanitarian crises but that's only part of the story.

The WHO is there to protect health for all - whether that's helping a mother-to-be in Tanzania access antenatal care or training a health worker in Argentina to treat depression with skill and compassion. At a time when funding for global health is being cut by governments, the WHO Foundation and WHO are inviting people to join the movement to protect health for all.

The One World, Health for All Movement was inspired by the *1 Dollar 1 World* campaign—sparked not by an institution, but by one individual. On January 24, a WHO staff member decided she couldn't stand by as the global health budget faced devastating cuts. So she took a stand. Alone at first, she raised her index finger as a sign of solidarity and hope, and called on the world to do the same.

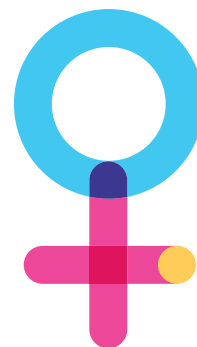
Her message resonated. In just days, people across more than 150 countries joined in—raising their hands, sharing their stories, and donating what they could. It was a powerful reminder: **it begins with one. One hand reaching out. One heart choosing hope. One act of kindness.**

Remember that your voice and your contribution counts towards building a healthier world - through generous donations, sharing our appeals and messages of support.

This is just the beginning. We will continue to bring you the stories of impact from emergencies and beyond throughout 2025 and beyond.

Together we can rise as one for global health.

**Donate to One World, Health For All**



## WHO Is There For Us

WHO is more than a name—it is more than **8,000** public health professionals who work across WHO's **150+ country offices, six regional offices**, and headquarters in Geneva. They are doctors, scientists, epidemiologists, logisticians, midwives, and emergency responders.

WHO has a footprint in nearly every country in the world. Together with public health institutes and governments, they:

- Forecast flu strains for vaccine production
- Track COVID-19 and other outbreaks
- Coordinate HIV and TB responses
- Share data to speed up emergency response
- Protect women and children's health through scientific advances, health equipment, training and advocacy
- Improve survival rates for heart disease, cancers and diabetes through evidence-based training, guidance and public health measures.

## WHO Supports Women's Health

The great news is that - thanks to healthcare - more women are surviving pregnancy and childbirth than ever before - a 40 percent drop in maternal deaths in the past 23 years. And yet every 7 seconds a mother or newborn dies—needlessly. These are not accidents; they are preventable tragedies. No woman should die giving life in 2025.

Bleeding following childbirth, for example, is a major cause of death in mothers. Yet WHO has found a cost-effective way to measure blood-loss in women in lower income settings, enabling a life-saving rapid response.

**WHO reports this reduced severe bleeding by as much as 60 percent in a study of 200,000 women.**

**We can end preventable maternal and newborn deaths.** WHO is calling for a global push to ensure access to high quality care - especially in the poorest countries and fragile settings. **Investing in maternal and newborn health saves lives and strengthens communities.** It's one of the smartest investments we can make for humanity.

[Learn more about maternal health. Donate today.](#)





## WHO Supports Mental Health

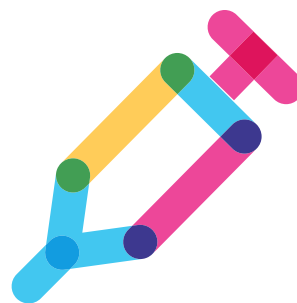
One in eight people globally lives with a mental health condition, yet stigma and limited access prevent many from seeking help.

**WHO's Special Initiative for Mental Health has made it possible to deliver mental health services in 9 countries at a cost of 50 cents per person.** They want to do more - by expanding this amazing service to 24 countries.

Together, we can create a world where mental health care is available for everyone, everywhere.

## WHO Prevents Disease

Vaccinations save lives, and WHO works hand-in-hand with other health organizations to protect children across the world, including conflict zones. In 50 years, vaccines have saved an estimated 154 million lives worldwide. Malaria vaccines have now been introduced in nearly 20 African countries, laying the foundation to save half a million additional lives by 2035.



In 2025, for example, WHO has already supported:

- Polio vaccinations for more than 600,000 children in Gaza and mass polio vaccination campaigns in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria
- Measles, pneumonia and diarrhoeal disease vaccinations for children in Somalia
- Cholera vaccine procurement and measles vaccination drives for children in 38 districts in Ethiopia
- Mpox vaccination efforts for more than 600,000 people in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Yet vaccine-preventable diseases are coming back. This includes measles with an estimated 10.3 million cases worldwide in 2023, a 20% increase compared to 2022. Funding cuts mean more than 100 countries report problems in rolling out vaccination campaigns and access to supplies.

These diseases can be prevented. WHO and partners have the knowledge, networks and expertise to save lives through vaccination.

[Learn more and Donate to the One World, Health for All Movement](#)

Rise Up for Maternal Health. **Donate Today.**

# WHO's Emergency Health Response

WHO is leading the response to more than **35 health emergencies** worldwide. Here are selected highlights of its work so far in 2025.

In 2025, WHO has:

## 1 Gaza



Dispatched more than

**150 truckloads**

of medical supplies—enough to help nearly **2 million people**.



Carried out over

**500**

medical evacuations.



Sent **emergency supplies** to the West Bank, where violence is also rising.



Vaccinated more than

**600,000**

children against polio.



Deployed **21 international medical teams**.



Reopened Al Khair Hospital, located between Rafah and Khan Younis.



Trained **42 local health workers** in Psychological First Aid—a first for the region.



Set up two trauma stabilization points and restored hospital capacity.

## 2 Lebanon



Supported Lebanon's Public Health Emergency Operations Center, helping coordinate patient care and referrals.



Trained over

**350**

health workers in critical psychosocial skills, including crisis response and communication.



Restarted mass casualty training drills in February 2025.



Planned new rehabilitation programs for people with serious war-related injuries.



Trained

**24 nurses**

in advanced emergency care, with more sessions ongoing.

## 3 Sudan



Launched telemedicine programs to reach people with critical sexual and reproductive healthcare—over **930 people** benefitted in January.



Delivered supplies for cholera response, including

**1,440**

rapid diagnostic tests.



Carried out a 6-day oral cholera vaccination campaign with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health—reaching 87% of the 1 million people targeted in White Nile State.

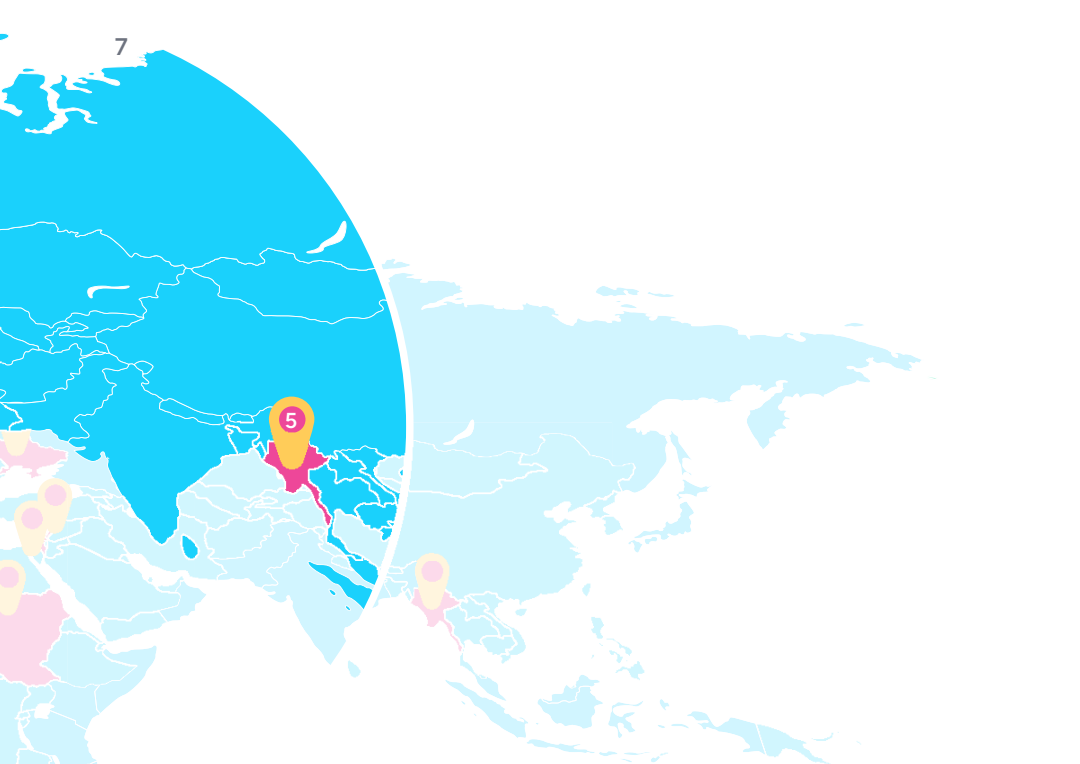


Distributed

**46,400 metric tons**

of emergency health supplies across Sudan—this includes trauma kits, cholera kits, supplies for malnourished children, and more.





## 4 Ukraine



Providing over-the-counter medicine kits to

**10,000+**

households near active conflict zones.



Expanding rehabilitation services for people recovering from injuries and trauma.



Supporting mobile clinics and outreach teams to bring care to remote or displaced communities.



Training health workers in integrated physical and mental healthcare.



Scaling up life-saving care while helping Ukraine build a more resilient, people-centered health system.

## 5 Myanmar



WHO has given nearly

**140 tons**

of medical supplies—enough to **help 450,000 people** for three months including emergency health kits, hundreds of trauma and surgery kits, 60 medical tents.



Supplies for a

**1,000**

bed hospital.



Distributed

**4,500**

rapid Dengue Fever diagnostic test kits to frontline responders and health workers.



Mobilized

**16**

Emergency Medical Teams who deliver emergency medical care.



WHO backs up rapid response teams.

## Mpox and Cholera Outbreaks



**650,000+**

vaccine doses delivered across **6 countries**.



Helping set up

**23** diagnostic labs

in the DRC (up from just 2 in 2023).



Supporting the rollout of emergency treatment centers and disease tracking systems.



Approving emergency use of a new mpox vaccine.



Working closely with Africa CDC and national health ministries to coordinate response efforts.

## Gaza

# A tense situation for patients and health workers

The situation in Gaza remains incredibly tough. Essential medicines and supplies that were restocked after the January ceasefire are now running dangerously low, as aid has been blocked since March. These shortages include critical items like heart medications, insulin, antibiotics, and blood supplies. Treatment for cancer patients remains at risk. Among the 10,200 people being treated for cancer, 980 are children.

Since the ceasefire ended on March 18, more than 1,480 people have been killed and nearly 3,700 injured, according to Gaza's Ministry of Health. The health system is under extreme strain:

- Only 22 of 36 hospitals are still open, many only offering limited services
- Just 59 of 142 primary care centers are operating
- 11 field hospitals are doing their best to fill the gaps

At the same time, overcrowded shelters, poor sanitation, and a lack of clean water have fueled outbreaks of diseases like measles, flu, diarrhea, hepatitis, and even polio. Vulnerable groups—especially mothers, children, and older people—are most at risk. Many rely entirely on humanitarian aid to survive.

## WHO's Response

Despite extreme challenges, WHO teams are staying and saving lives. Since January, WHO has:



Dispatched more than

**150 truckloads**

of medical supplies—enough to help nearly **2 million people**.



Carried out over

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medical evacuations.



Sent **emergency supplies** to the West Bank, where violence is also rising.



Vaccinated more than

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Deployed **21** international medical teams.



Reopened Al Kheir Hospital, located between Rafah and Khan Younis.



Trained **42 local health workers** in Psychological First Aid—a first for the region.



Set up two trauma stabilization points and restored hospital capacity.





© WHO

Children in Gaza hold up their little fingers to show they have been vaccinated against polio. A polio vaccination campaign reached more than 600,000 children in February.

“

**The [polio] campaign brought not just vaccines, but moments of hope.**

”

**Dr Richard Peepkorn**  
WHO Representative for the  
Occupied Palestinian Territory



We urgently need funding to keep these efforts going. Right now, 12,000–14,000 patients, including at least 2,500 children, need immediate medical evacuation. Continued support is essential.

[Donate to the Gaza Emergency Appeal](#)

## Lebanon

# A health system under pressure

After more than a year of escalating conflict and deep economic hardship in Lebanon, both patients and health workers are stretched to their limits.

Right now, about 1 in 4 people with serious injuries need long-term rehabilitation but many can't get the care they need. While over 880,000 displaced families have returned home, the healthcare system remains fragile.

Since October 2023, there have been 162 attacks on health facilities, resulting in 241 deaths and 296 injuries. On top of this, the withdrawal of U.S. funding has left a critical gap—around 5,000 patients are at risk of losing access to WHO-supported treatment for cancer, kidney dialysis, and chronic conditions.

## WHO's Response

WHO continues to provide strong support for Lebanon's emergency response and long-term health system recovery. So far this year, it has:



Supported Lebanon's Public Health Emergency Operations Center, helping coordinate patient care and referrals.



Trained over

**350**

health workers in critical psychosocial skills, including crisis response and communication.



Restarted mass casualty training drills in February 2025.



Planned new rehabilitation programs for people with serious war-related injuries.



Trained

**24 nurses**

in advanced emergency care, with more sessions ongoing.





Despite the challenges, health workers in Lebanon are doing incredible work. With your support, WHO can continue to stand with them.

Pictured left < Dr Abdinasir Abubakar, WHO representative in Lebanon visits patients in Bequaa, Lebanon.



## Sudan

# The world's largest displacement crisis

Sudan is in the middle of a massive humanitarian emergency. Right now, it's the largest internal displacement crisis on the planet—with over 12.9 million people forced from their homes and 3.8 million more fleeing to neighboring countries.

This year alone, 20.3 million people in Sudan urgently need healthcare. Disease outbreaks are spreading in two-thirds of the country, including a cholera outbreak that's already infected over 56,900 people and claimed more than 1,500 lives.

Food insecurity is worsening too—nearly 25 million people are struggling to get enough to eat.

Children are the face of this crisis. About 24 million children have been affected by the conflict. Around 17 million children are out of school and many girls face increased risks of early marriage, gender-based violence, and other forms of exploitation.

## WHO's Response

WHO is working around the clock with local partners to respond to urgent health needs. In just the first few months of 2025, it has:



Launched telemedicine programs to reach people with critical sexual and reproductive healthcare—over **930 people benefitted** in January.



Delivered supplies for cholera response, including

**1,440**

rapid diagnostic tests.



Carried out a 6-day oral cholera vaccination campaign with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health—reaching 87% of the 1 million people targeted in White Nile State.



Distributed

**46,400** metric tons

of emergency health supplies across Sudan—this includes trauma kits, cholera kits, supplies for malnourished children, and more.





© WHO / Inas Hamam

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Director Dr Hanan Balkhy (right) meets patients at the WHO-supported nutrition stabilization center in Port Sudan, providing life-saving care for many infants suffering from acute malnutrition.

“

**The needs in Sudan are overwhelming, but we're not giving up. Every clinic we support and every vaccine we deliver makes a difference.**

”

**WHO Emergency Health  
Coordinator, Sudan**



The situation remains urgent. Continued support is essential to help people survive until they can rebuild their lives.

[Donate to the Sudan Emergency Appeal](#)

# Ukraine

## Health under fire

Ukraine's healthcare system is still under enormous pressure as the war continues. Ongoing attacks, a brutal winter, and widespread damage to health facilities have left millions without access to care.

Today, 12.7 million people in Ukraine need humanitarian help—including 9.2 million who urgently need medical support. Mental health is also a major concern. An estimated 9.6 million people are living with mental health challenges, including nearly 4 million with moderate to severe symptoms.

The conflict has forced 3.6 million people from their homes within Ukraine, and many more live in fear as airstrikes and shelling continue. Attacks on clinics and hospitals have disrupted supply chains and exhausted health workers, especially in frontline areas.

## WHO's Response

WHO is working closely with Ukraine's Ministry of Health and other partners to keep essential services going and strengthen long-term recovery. By the end of 2025, it aims to reach 3 million people with health support. Key actions include:



Providing over-the-counter medicine kits to

**10,000+**

households near active conflict zones.



Expanding rehabilitation services for people recovering from injuries and trauma.



Supporting mobile clinics and outreach teams to bring care to remote or displaced communities.



Training health workers in integrated physical and mental healthcare.



Scaling up life-saving care while helping Ukraine build a more resilient, people-centered health system.





A missile strike on Kyiv's Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital destroyed several floors and disrupted services. WHO was on hand to support health workers and first responders.



WHO is not only responding to the current crisis but helping to rebuild a stronger health system for the future.

[Donate to the Ukraine Emergency Appeal](#)



## Myanmar

# Earthquakes add to the crisis

On March 28, two earthquakes struck near Mandalay, Myanmar—an area already scarred by years of conflict. The worst-affected area, Sagaing township, is home to about a third of the country's displaced people. Many were already without safe shelter or clean water.

The earthquakes killed more than 3,500 people and injured over 5,000. Health services were hit hard. Three clinics were completely destroyed, and only 56 of 85 health centers in the area are still running.

With so many people now homeless and without basic sanitation, the risk of disease outbreaks is rising fast. Around 2.4 million people urgently need healthcare. More help is on the way—supplies are being prepared to reach almost 2 million more people. But the need is still huge. Trauma care kits, surgical tools, safe delivery kits, and basic medicines are running dangerously low.

## WHO's Response



WHO has given nearly

**140 tons**

of medical supplies—enough to **help 450,000 people** for three months including emergency health kits, hundreds of trauma and surgery kits, 60 medical tents.



Supplies for a

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Distributed

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Mobilized

**16**

Emergency Medical Teams who deliver emergency medical care.



WHO backs up rapid response teams.



WHO is responding at its highest level of emergency activation by deploying tonnes of emergency medical supplies to provide life-saving trauma care, prevent disease outbreaks & restore essential health services in Myanmar.

“

**This is no longer just a natural disaster – it is a complex and evolving health emergency. The people of Myanmar deserve no less.**

”

**Dr Thushara Fernando**  
WHO representative, Myanmar



WHO remains fully committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through every phase of this crisis – from emergency response and relief to resilience and recovery.

# Mpox and Cholera Outbreaks

## Fighting disease at source

Mpox is a serious illness, similar to smallpox. It causes fever, fatigue and blister-like pustules that can leave long-term scars. It's especially dangerous for children and people with weakened immune systems.

Since August 2024, when WHO declared mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the virus has continued to spread—mainly in Africa. By February 2025, there were more than 3,000 new confirmed cases globally, with over 80% in the African region.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the world's hotspot. More than 20,000 suspected cases have been reported since 2024, in areas already struggling with conflict, poor healthcare, and mass displacement.

In Burundi, fortunately the situation has been improving—weekly confirmed cases are now below 50, down from over 200 at the peak. Out of more than 3,600 cases, there has been just one reported death.

Uganda, however, currently has the highest number of confirmed cases worldwide, with weekly cases peaking at around 300 and cases are rising in Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile, Angola is facing a major cholera outbreak. Since January 2025, there have been 8,543 cases and 329 deaths—a third of them happening in homes before patients could reach help. Cholera has now spread to 16 of Angola's 21 provinces, hitting children and young people the hardest.

## WHO's Response

In the DRC and other countries, WHO and partners are leading efforts to contain mpox through:



**650,000+**

vaccine doses delivered across **6 countries**.



Helping set up

**23** diagnostic labs

in the DRC (up from just 2 in 2023).



Supporting the rollout of emergency treatment centers and disease tracking systems.



Approving emergency use of a new mpox vaccine.



Working closely with Africa CDC and national health ministries to coordinate response efforts.

For cholera, WHO is distributing emergency supplies, helping train health workers, and supporting rapid response teams to contain the spread.





© WHO / Guerchom, NDEBO

A frontline health worker is vaccinated against mpox at the official launch of the mpox vaccination campaign in North Kivu Provincial Hospital, in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo.

“

**Alongside other public health efforts, vaccines, treatments, and better testing are key to getting the mpox outbreak under control.**

”

**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
WHO Director-General

Rise Up for Maternal Health. **Donate Today.**



# Kseniia Ostrizhna: Saving lives in Ukraine

Kseniia Ostrizhna always knew she wanted to save lives. “As a child, I would say, ‘As soon as I grow up, I will become a doctor,’” she remembers. Today, she’s an emergency medicine doctor in Kramatorsk, near the front line in eastern Ukraine.

“The alarms are relentless,” she says. “Even during shelling, we respond to calls, fully aware of the risks. If something happens nearby, well, that’s fate.”

The dangers are real—ambulance workers in Ukraine face three times the risk of injury or death compared to other health-care workers, according to WHO. Kseniia recalls the devastation of the Ria Pizza café bombing: “The missile struck during lunchtime... it was overwhelming.”

To better serve her community, Kseniia took part in WHO trauma care training. “It energized me,” she says. Now, she teaches emergency care to the next generation. “I feel a responsibility to share everything I’ve learned.”

## Conclusion

# Every life saved matters

Every clinic reopened, every medicine delivered, every health worker supported—it all brings us closer to a healthier, safer future.

To everyone who has donated, shared our message, or stood with WHO during these emergencies: thank you. Your compassion makes it possible to reach people in their most difficult moments—with care, with dignity, and with hope.

From crisis zones to conflict areas, your support means more lives saved and stronger health systems that can stand up to the challenges of tomorrow.

“

**I envision a world where everyone can live healthy, productive lives—no matter who they are or where they live.**

”

**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
WHO Director-General

Rise Up for Maternal Health. **Donate Today.**



## WHO Foundation

Founded in 2020, the WHO Foundation supports the World Health Organization by brokering relationships with donors and raising funds from around the world—from individuals, companies, and foundations.

Our goal is simple: help WHO respond faster and reach further in the fight for health for all. We focus on urgent global health needs, helping WHO scale up its work in ways that are innovative, inclusive, and sustainable.

## World Health Organization

Since 1948, WHO has been the United Nations' health authority, connecting countries and partners to improve lives everywhere. Whether responding to war, disease outbreaks, or natural disasters, WHO supports countries in their greatest time of need—delivering care, protecting health workers, and building systems that last.

Whether an individual, a business, or a philanthropic organization, you can help the WHO Foundation implement its mission. Please contact us at [donations@who.foundation](mailto:donations@who.foundation) to learn more about how to bring critical health services and supplies to people around the world.



## Thank you for your support!

Please consider sharing this Impact Update with your network.

Rise Up for Maternal Health. **Donate Today.**