



SUCCESS STORY

Egypt Is the Number One Country in Reducing Child Deaths

Integrated Health Services



Women receive care for themselves and their families at clinics offering integrated health services.

For further reading:

The National Maternal Mortality Study: Egypt 2000, Directorate of Maternal and Child Health Care, Ministry of Health and Population, Egypt, June 2001
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/category/health/sympo0306/study.pdf>

“The Trend of Maternal Mortality in Egypt from 1992–2000: An Emphasis on Regional Differences,” *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, Volume 9, Number 1, March 2005
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/m60k0344p1w6rp07/>

Ruth Levine and Molly Kiner, “Millions Saved: Proven Successes in Global Health,” Center for Global Development, 2004 (<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/2841>)

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U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

Three decades of assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has helped the Government of Egypt dramatically reduce deaths among pregnant women and infants. Compared with the 1970s, today 50 percent fewer women are dying during pregnancy, and 70 percent fewer infants are dying in the first year of life, thanks to USAID’s work with the Egypt Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) to improve health care service delivery, strengthen the country’s health systems, and implement comprehensive communications.

Through persistent and long-term education efforts beginning in the 1970s, including a television campaign on safe motherhood, USAID has helped families and communities in Egypt understand health concerns, leading to changes in health behaviors and lifestyle practices. More than half the women in Upper Egypt who responded to the 2003 Demographic and Health Survey reported hearing about pregnancy danger signs; 80 percent of those women saw the messages on television.

USAID also helped mobilize communities to conduct health education and promote utilization of health services and trained community leaders to oversee the managers of community-level clinics. The USAID-supported work focused on educating women about taking care of their health, seeing a doctor during pregnancy, and having a skilled attendant at delivery. The work also focused on improving the training of health professionals in basic technical protocols and prenatal and postnatal care.

In addition, USAID partnered with the MOHP to upgrade clinics and hospital obstetric and neonatal wards; improve clinical skills; establish management and logistic systems; educate the public on healthy behaviors; enhance information management systems; improve pre-service medical and nursing education; develop an infectious disease surveillance and response system; and reform primary health care service delivery.