



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **International Day of the Midwife to Provide Free Health Services to Thousands** *Four-Day Event Will Also Include a Speech from Tanzania's Vice President*

*Simiyu, Tanzania (April 15, 2019)* — From Thursday, May 2 to 5, hundreds of health professionals from across Tanzania will meet in Simiyu to mark international Day of the Midwife (May 5). The four-day event will focus on highlighting the incredible achievements accomplished by Tanzanian midwives, as well as provide members of the Simiyu community with provisional health services such as HIV testing, cancer screening, family planning resources, blood pressure testing and nutrition counselling.

Feddy Mwanga is the President of the [Tanzanian Midwives Association](#) — a local organization made up of over 4,000 midwives that's responsible for organizing IDM. Ms. Mwanga says that TAMA's efforts to save the lives of childbearing mothers and babies through the practice of midwifery will be on full display during the event.

"Tanzania has a maternal mortality rate of 556 deaths per 100,000 live births — way above the global target of 70 per 100,000 live births," says Ms. Mwanga. "This year's IDM will be one way for our organization to promote the practice of midwifery as a key function of saving lives in Tanzania."

In addition to the life-saving provisional services offered at this year's IDM, the final day of the event (May 5) will feature a large-scale rally through the streets of Simiyu and speeches from celebrity guests, including:

- **The Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan**
- Deputy Country Representative of United Nations Population Fund, Dr. Hashina Begum
- Additional guests that will be announced closer to the event

Hilda Kwezi, a practicing midwife and a member of TAMA, believes that bringing attention to the field of midwifery through events like IDM has the ability to save the lives of more babies and childbearing mothers in Tanzania.

Over the course of my career, I've seen a competent midwife mean the difference between life and death on multiple occasions," says Kwezi. "IDM promotes the practice of midwifery and encourages more young people to consider pursuing this life-saving profession."

For more information on this event, please visit our [Facebook Event Page](#) or reach out to the below listed media relations contact for TAMA.

### ***About Tanzania Midwives Association***

*The Tanzania Midwives Association (TAMA) is the national professional association of registered and enrolled midwives in Tanzania. It is an independent volunteer-led organization with 19 branches and more than 4,000 active members. It was founded in 1992.*

### ***About International Day of the Midwife***

*International Day of the Midwife was established in 1991, and since that time, more than 50 countries have participated in events to commemorate the profession annually on the 5th of May. In Tanzania, the Tanzania Midwives Association has celebrated the day every year since its inauguration in 1992. TAMA marks the annual occasion in a new Tanzanian city each year by offering provisional health services to community members and promoting the practice of midwifery through various activities such as speeches and rallies.*

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