

## Safe Motherhood Programme

The Safe Motherhood Programmes seeks to educate the female population about safe delivery of their babies in local Health Clinics, not at home. These Clinics are very basic and vary considerably in quality. In some the women lie on mats on the floor, in others on old and filthy mattresses and yet others on clean bedding with mosquito nets. There is a trained midwife at each but difficult deliveries have to be transferred to the nearest hospital where there is a Doctor present. This can mean a journey of 60 or more kilometres on treacherous roads or tracks; on foot, on bicycle, by motor bike or by obtaining a lift on a vehicle. The Health Clinics are normally built by the communities themselves or by the local church of that community. Women pay to attend the Clinics and this covers the staff salaries. The Centres can normally purchase basic medicines and the Government provides vaccinations for infants and children. IPASC seeks to provide larger items such as mattresses, delivery beds, autoclaves and other sterilising equipment. The funds for this are provided by the donors.



*Matress delivery to replace old and dirty bedding*



*A Clinic which is presently very basic but the community is building a new maternity block – the present building will be used for consultation and for the sick that need treatment.*



*The baby here was 4 weeks premature hence the pale skin*

*Despite the new block the delivery bed is still very basic.*



*A good Clinic with clean waiting area*

*A clinic of five good buildings built entirely by the community where qualified Doctors are assisted by midwives. All beds have mosquito nets.*



*A recently built Clinic receiving a purpose made delivery bed and other sterile equipment*



The measure of the gratitude to IPASC for their programme of equipment provision is often reflected in the welcome the people extend to IPASC visits!



*Women greet the visitors with singing and waving branches and the door of the clinic is also decorated – a sign of welcome*



Following the success of micro finance groups for people living with HIV, IPASC has started similar groups for pregnant women so that they can afford to attend health clinics for their delivery. These groups are proving popular and the women thank IPASC for showing them how to take charge of their own health and wellbeing. The women have also started to work together in cultivating produce for market and are able to make more income from this cooperation.

In some villages women have themselves begun to build new maternity blocks knowing that they will receive support from IPASC with equipment. The women make and lay the bricks and employ builders to construct the roof.



*A women's group showing their new building and dancing inside*

*This group of women are also part of the micro finance group. Each woman makes a regular donation towards the construction of the new building*



IPASC is gradually introducing the concept of birth control as part of its awareness raising programme. Women who have benefitted have given testimonies of thanks for the improvement to their lives.

**Facts and figures:**

- Family income (based on a report from 29 women using family planning) has risen from \$23.1 to \$86.2 for 21 women). In the case of caesarean section at the General Hospital family revenue is increased from \$23.1 to \$173.1 because of the cost of hospital delivery. (Total \$1384.85 for 8 women)
- The level of maternal morbidity and death in the zone of intervention has reduced from 370 per 100000 to 270 per 100000 live births and deaths of new borns from 34 per 1000 to 19 per 1000