



Barbara May
Foundation

SAVE THE MOTHER. SAVE THE WORLD.

Thank you Ubuntu Foundation

In June 2022, Ubuntu Foundation generously donated \$25,000 to the Barbara May Foundation to contribute to the midwife salaries in Ethiopia which enabled thousands of consultations in the clinics and healthy born babies.



The Barbara May Foundation was established in 2009 to treat a surgical condition called obstetric fistula and also to prevent it.

Obstetric fistula is caused when the baby gets stuck, the baby is too big, mother too small or the baby is coming out the wrong way and can't be delivered normally. Most women in Sub-Saharan Africa deliver at home with no recourse to get to a hospital. The hospital is too far and/or care is too expensive. A woman can be in labour for 3-7 days, eventually delivering a dead baby. Soon afterwards, she starts leaking uncontrollably from her bladder and often her bowels as well. The long labour has crushed and killed all the tissues of the birth canal, bladder, and bowel, leaving fistulae or holes from the bladder and/or bowel to the outside world. She is ashamed, divorced, ostracized, and often suicidal. It is estimated that there are up to 50,000 to 100,000 new cases of obstetric fistula each year, all of which are preventable.



Barbara May Foundation has built charitable maternity hospitals where women can deliver safely and for free.

To date BMF established two maternity hospitals in Ethiopia where 73% of women still deliver at home, meaning around 430 women die per 100,000 deliveries and around 9,000 women suffering from a fistula each year.

In addition, in the Afar area of Ethiopia where a nomadic tribal group called the Afar live, over 1,000 birth attendants have been trained and they are responsible for up to 10,000 women delivering a year.

BMF has also started a maternity and fistula hospital in Tanzania where 2,500 women deliver, 40 midwives are trained each year in clinical skills, community

education and outreach take place, school education and over 200 women receive treatment for their fistula.

BMF now can expand further, and partnerships have been made to build a maternity hospital in Uganda and a second in Tanzania whilst expanding one of our hospitals in Barhir Dar, Ethiopia. (www.barbaramayfoundation.com)

Ubuntu Foundation's donation was put towards the running costs of our maternity hospital in Barhir Dar, Ethiopia.

During the last financial year, the hospital delivered 2317 babies and performed over 11,000 consultations in their clinics. This was primarily done by our midwife team and Ubuntu Foundation's donation covered the salaries of our whole midwife team for three months. To date there hasn't been a single maternal death in our Barhir Dar hospital nor a fistula formed, this is all thanks to our expert midwives.



Thank you, Ubuntu Foundation, for supporting them and enabling this lifesaving work.

Dr Andrew Browning AM
Medical Director
Barbara May Foundation



