



Global Health Ministries

Newsletter

Because all people should have access to a healthy life.

Photo, mothers and their children, Nigeria

Survive, Thrive, Transform



Nashirian, at home in her village, Nigeria

As I arrived unannounced at Nashirian's door last February, she welcomed me into her mud home in northeastern Nigeria. It was impeccably clean. She was an example that the local Village Health

Worker (VHW) wanted me to meet. Nashirian explained her family's many new habits: sleeping under a mosquito net, handwashing regularly, using and maintaining a clean toilet, covering food to keep flies and mosquitoes away. The impact of all this was a big change for her children. Before learning these practices, each of her five kids got sick with malaria every year, and each would have to visit the hospital to survive. This year, in the middle of malaria season, only one of her children had even a mild case of anything that looked like malaria. That child was able to be treated at home. Healthy habits that Nashirian learned through GHM-supported VHWs have changed

~ continued page 2



The World Health Organization has identified these as priority interventions to help women and children SURVIVE, so they can THRIVE ...

- Immunization
- Integrated management of child illness; nutrition
- Prenatal care and safe delivery
- Access to emergency obstetric and neonatal care
- Access to family planning

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VHWs in Nigeria teach how to use bednets for malaria prevention, and how not to use them!



Community health workers bring routine vaccinations to remote villages in the CAR.



The gift of newborn kits helps medical staff promote prenatal care and safe delivery.

her life. Not only is she surviving, she is thriving. Nashirian is one of over 58,000 people in Nigeria benefiting from your partnership to support VHWs.

“Survive, Thrive and Transform” describe organizing themes that the World Health Organization (WHO) has proposed for three agendas to improve the health of women, children and adolescents in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) by 2030. Thriving healthy communities is the goal, but the linchpin is the health of women and children. From health promotion to emergency care, evidence-based research shows that improved health for women and children leads to improved health for everyone.

It’s no accident that GHM’s country partners already focus intensely on improving the lives of women - mothers specifically - and children. Almost all (99%) of the women who die each year from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth are in LMICs (WHO, 2016). Most of these deaths are preventable, through 3 measures: access to appropriate health care; access to a skilled birth attendant; and access to emergency obstetric care (USAID, 2016). “Access to appropriate health care” includes not only clinics and hospitals, but also primary care in the form of community-centered health promotion like the VHWs benefitting Nashirian.

At the other end of the spectrum is emergency care. In Tanzania, groundbreaking work is being done today at the Newborn ICU in Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre. Thanks to your support, no baby is ever turned away for lack of funds and, last year, 340 babies were treated with a 92% survival rate. ELCA missionaries Steve and Jodi Swanson have led this effort using innovative methods and technologies to equip a highly professional staff. Their team published a manual in 2021 titled *Every Breath Counts*, sharing best practices they’d like to teach widely. 160+ doctors and nurses from 55 hospitals and 5 countries gathered to learn at this first-ever neonatal conference in Tanzania. Already, the impact is tremendous and GHM hopes to support spreading this model.

Somewhere between health promotion and emergency care is access to skilled birth attendants. In 2021, groups and individuals across the USA donated 8,187 GHM Newborn Kits that were shared in half a dozen countries. Such “simple” gifts literally attract women into Lutheran clinics where they have access to prenatal care, assisted delivery, vaccines and continued care during their baby’s first year of life.

Thank you for helping some of the world’s most vulnerable people survive and thrive. Perhaps, one day, we will see our role as part of transforming this world ... in a way that looks like God’s will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

Rev. Doug Cox, Exec. Dir.

El Salvador: School of Hard Knocks, Roadblocks & Coffee Crops



"If we all did one action a day to give them a better childhood, we would have more smiles."

~ Ministry of Health mural, ES

In May 2022, a GHAP team from Minnesota (MN) worked in El Salvador (ES) with our Salvadoran Lutheran Synod (SLS) Partner to help SLS plan for strengthening its health program over the next five years. During a visit to a rural school, one administrator stated, "In El Salvador, boys have 3 options: join the military, immigrate or join a gang."

Globally, a child born in 2020 can expect, on average, to be 56 percent as productive as she could be when she grows up (Human Capital Report, 2020) – and this is pre-COVID-19. For a child in El Salvador, this world average is their reality. Clearly this "average" rating is not optimal. However, El Salvador's median position on child well-being is actually somewhat favorable relative to its GDP per capita ranking. In other words, El Salvador is out-performing on this health measure relative to its economic status. El Salvador is already at or favorable to the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.2 targets, to be achieved by 2030. Neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births are right at the target of 12, and El Salvador's under-5 child mortality is about half of the target of 25 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The SLS Health Promoter program trains volunteers to reach areas where government health promoters are not, including in schools. Leaders from El Salvador's schools and Ministry of Health consistently reaffirmed the importance of SLS's partnership to improve child health. In part because of such efforts, El Salvador's COVID-19 vaccination rate is about 83% compared to 67% for the U.S. Because of your support

of SLS Health Promoter Leader Rev. Conchi, RN, and GHAP consultants Sandy and Tim Iverson, Linda Dahlen and Jon Moe, GHAP is helping El Salvador "punch above its weight" for health – in a densely populated area of hard knocks.

Rob Thames, FACHE, FHFMA, Dir. of GHAP

Recipe for MN-to-ES Conversion:

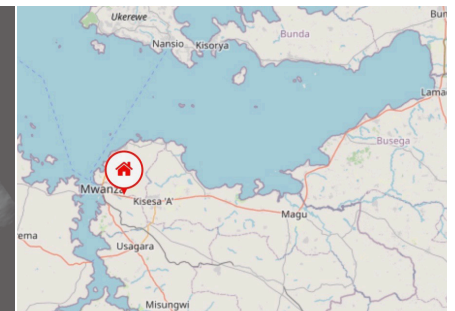
Put all Minnesotans in a space 10% of its land size; add the population of its top two cities (Mpls and St Paul) AGAIN; merge morning and evening rush hour traffic into one. Heat big rocks (mountains), flip flops (beaches) and coffee crops (30% of its agriculture) and immerse in Spanish. Divide per capita income by 8 and buy a pupusa with Bitcoin.

A Great Gala!



Thank you to everyone who participated in GHM's 2022 Imagine Change Gala! We welcomed about 150 people to Midland Hills on May 12, where we heard more about the Madagascar Health & Water Project. Gala revenue has reached \$70,000 to help bring access to renewable, life-giving water to communities in the parched south, where relentless cycles of drought have created famine conditions. Drilling is well underway for the first well, with sites selected for 2 more deep wells yet this summer. It was wonderful to be able to gather, both in person and online. Thank you for imagining change with us!

Little Miracles



It's a springtime Christmas in Tanzania as the latest GHM container to that country, shipped in December, has just arrived. Included on this shipment is a shiny new ultrasound for Nyakato Health Centre, 10km from Mwanza City Centre. This is East of Lake Victoria Diocese and despite the area's potential for greater prosperity, many people in Nyakato's catchment area are among the poorest in Tanzania. Every health center in Tanzania must have an ultrasound according to government rules. Nyakato's new ultrasound enables them to meet this requirement. Often associated with pregnancy, ultrasounds are an important diagnostic tool to help physicians evaluate, diagnose and treat a variety of medical conditions. They can also be a source of revenue for the health center. This ultrasound is a blessing for Nyakato! And it's a gift for every mother who seeks prenatal care and sees this first, miraculous image of her baby. Thank you for making gifts like these possible!

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*Every child comes with
 the message that God
 is not yet discouraged
 of (humanity).*

*~ Rabindranath Tagore,
 Bengali poet*

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Theresia

The Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre in Arusha, Tanzania is a busy place. Most days in 2021 there were on average, as reported by Dr. Stephen Swanson in the NICU's 2021 Annual Report, 19 tiny newborns in the NICU, more than half of them preterm babies and all of them critically ill. Young mothers are referred from across northern Tanzania to this NICU, which is providing some of the highest level newborn care in the country. Theresia is one of those young

mothers. Her baby was born at just 26 weeks, weighing 760 grams (1.7 pounds). Theresia stayed with him every day in the hospital. After nearly 3 months, he is going home ... an active, healthy, baby boy.

Encouragement passes from mother to baby and back again through the skin-on-skin contact of kangaroo mother care promoted at the NICU. With relatively simple equipment to keep the babies warm, and inspired, low-tech methods that support babies in respiratory distress, ALMC NICU is helping even the most vulnerable, fragile babies survive.