

UMCOR Birthing Kits..Yes!

I am sure there are many other countries just like Haiti, where the majority of births are unattended or perhaps only have a neighbor or grandma to coach and catch the baby!

On the island of Lagonav, Haiti, less than 10% of births are attended by a mid-wife or nurse; many manman's are less than 17 years old; and, 1 out of 17 die from blood loss or eclamptia, exhaustion and exposure. If the mother dies, generally the baby dies also.

The birthing kit, a recent item from UMCOR, provides all the necessary clean items needed to care for the infant at birth, These items are generally not available in remote settings.

The simple kit in a gallon zip-lock bag can be given to the pregnant woman to have available in her home where 99% of births take place on rags on the floor.

The kits can be made available to mid-wives and provide a "training moment." Some of the more experienced community midwives ask at clinics for gloves and anticeptic solutions.

I encourage congregations to make kits available for VIM teams and as Round-up items, now and in November. For Haiti, kits can be assembled and sent to: Central UMC, 1501 Massachuettes, Lawrence KS 66004.

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