

Fact Sheet: Kiwanis International and The Eliminate Project

The Eliminate Project

The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) is a global campaign that will save and protect millions of mothers and babies. Tetanus infects newborns, spreading quickly, causing terrible pain and killing within days. It's a terrible disease, preventing even the comfort of a mother's touch—but it's highly preventable. By targeting some of the poorest, most underserved women and children in the world, The Eliminate Project also will pave the way for other interventions that will boost maternal health and child survival.

- MNT is easily prevented by a series of three vaccine doses to women of childbearing age, costing roughly US\$1.80.
- Kiwanis International will raise US\$110 million by 2015, making Kiwanis the world's largest single donor.
- To achieve elimination, more than 100 million mothers must be immunized in the 38 countries where the disease is still a public health problem.
- Using the US\$1.80 average, Kiwanis will ultimately protect at least 61 million women and their future babies.

About maternal and neonatal tetanus

One newborn dies every nine minutes from tetanus. That is equivalent to 160 newborns each day. The leading causes of MNT deaths are:

- Lack of or limited access to immunization and pre and post-natal care services;
- Limited or absent clean delivery services; and
- Improper post-partum cord care.

Once the disease is contracted, the fatality rate can be as high as 100 percent in areas without access to adequate health care. Most mothers and newborns who die of tetanus live in areas of Africa, and South and East Asia, where many women are poor, have little access to health care, have limited information about safe delivery practices and continue harmful cord care practices.

Kiwanis International

Kiwanis International is a global organization of nearly 600,000 members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs—including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students age 14–18, Builders Club for students age 11–14, Kiwanis Kids for students age 6–12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities—annually raise more than US\$107 million and dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours to strengthen communities and serve children.

Fundraising for The Eliminate Project will support UNICEF and its partners, which have already eliminated MNT in 20 countries. Kiwanis' global volunteer network and strength in reaching communities and leaders, along with UNICEF's field staff, technical expertise and unbeatable supply chain, will help eliminate this cruel, centuries-old disease and pave the way for other interventions.