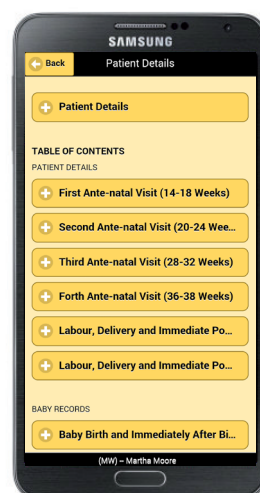


The Global Library's unique mobile phone platform for safer motherhood welcomed in Botswana evaluation

"Proof of Concept" test proves successful

In late May, *The Global Library* – assisted by an expert team from The World Health Organization – undertook a week long initial assessment of its unique MOTHER *Initiative* mobile phone programme in Botswana. Working in close cooperation with the Botswana Ministry of Health, some 14 midwives from a number of different clinics were given specially pre-programmed, large screen mobile phones to evaluate the functionality of the new cloud-based system. Almost unanimously they welcomed the programme and expressed the hope that it might be developed and scaled up on a permanent basis. The Ministry of Health also expressed considerable satisfaction with the results of this initial assessment phase and is considering further possible developments. [Read more >](#)



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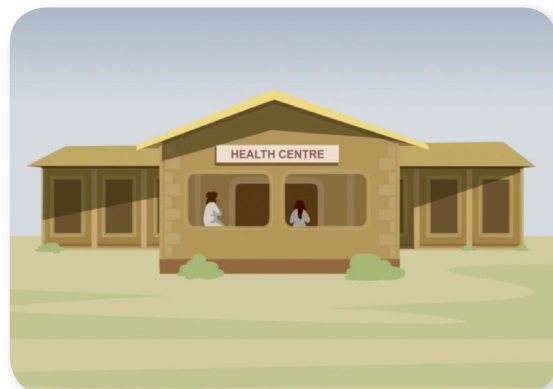
Life saving skills – four useful new textbooks

The Centre for Maternal and Child Care at The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine runs a very active ongoing training programme for maternal medicine in a eleven different countries, supporting the enhancement of skilled attendance and essential obstetric care. To assist in this major outreach programme they have developed a range of training textbooks to provide life saving skills in relation to essential obstetric and newborn care. *The Global Library* has taken on the responsibility of producing and publishing the four textbooks in the series for this important programme. Conventionally printed copies will be available from *The Global Library* – but all four volumes will all also all be available for free access on *The Global Library* site later this year. [Read more >](#)



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Last year *The Global Library* completed the development of 15 short animated videos designed to provide women with basic information about pregnancy and childbirth. They each take the form of simply illustrated animations with an accompanying voice over commentary – so they are designed to be fully understandable by all women regardless of whether they are able to read or not. The original commentary was in English but the concept is that it would be useful if they could be available in local languages; to test this they have all now been translated into Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa and they will be distributed on DVDs shortly to relevant areas of Nigeria (via our Ambassadors) to assess how useful they are in educating women about key issues related to pregnancy and child birth. [Read more >](#)



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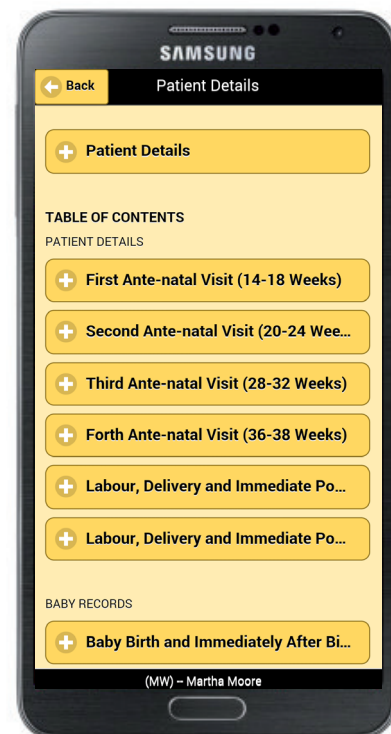
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The MOTHER Initiative is a sophisticated, three part programme that has been developed by *The Global Library* to address some key issues related to Safer Motherhood. The first function of the programme is a "Reporting Section", which keeps a detailed record of each pregnant woman's prenatal examinations and reminds both her and the midwife when another is due. Because the programme is cloud-based it also provides the relevant supervising Health Authority with all the data of each woman from pregnancy, through childbirth to early infant care. The operation of this section requires some phone connectivity but not on a continuous basis.

The second function of the programme is to support practising midwives and other health professionals by providing them with instant access to a wide range of clinical support to reinforce their previous learning. This support is presented in the form of video-based skills demonstrations, tutorials, medical films, textbooks and community education animations. No phone connectivity is required for this function since these resources are all pre-loaded onto the phones in advance (although further resources can be added remotely at a later date, whenever phone connectivity is available). The midwives in the Botswana evaluation all expressed great enthusiasm for these resources and some recounted that even during the course of this short initial evaluation they had benefited from access to them.



The third function of the programme is to allow midwives to contact specified hospitals, clinics and doctors quickly and simply whenever they needed to do so either by email, or by text or by phone.

The Global Library is now upgrading the programme further to take account of lessons learnt from this initial evaluation. The next step is to undertake a full-length field study over a period of some months looking at value and function and comparing outcomes with a matched control area – with the results published in a peer-review journal. Arrangements for such a study have not yet been made but the possibilities are currently being discussed with the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Africa who have provided valuable advice and support throughout the development of *The MOTHER Initiative*.



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Whilst the interpretation of all internet statistics should be treated with some caution the use of *The Global Library's* website (www.glowm.com) is obviously continuing to grow at an impressive rate.

As the May statistics from AW Stat show, there has been a healthy increase in the use of the site on the basis of a range of different parameters. Taken together they indicate that usage of the site has increased by over 50% when compared to the same period the last year alone. The tables below show the user statistics for *The Global Library of Women's Medicine's* website for the first five months of 2015 compared to the same period on 2014. (as compiled by AW Stats)

2015

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2015	184840	268665	747323	6708433	172.95 GB
Feb 2015	219016	317157	880645	7073561	221.76 GB
Mar 2015	256122	377686	978664	8502062	255.24 GB
Apr 2015	226345	321561	936971	7180431	232.40 GB
May 2015	242342	351591	955534	7688375	232.31 GB

2014

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2014	86372	114236	268984	3196980	89.96 GB
Feb 2014	106978	137642	309838	3772981	99.79 GB
Mar 2014	118932	156292	381747	4296247	109.85 GB
Apr 2014	118154	156598	343080	4258252	108.55 GB
May 2014	143363	193341	387817	5010802	114.24 GB



Over 60 “Ambassadors” in less-resourced countries are now making *The Global Library* widely available despite the absence of internet connectivity!

The pioneering use of Memory Sticks has made the whole active website downloadable at any appropriate location

In January *The Global Library* completed its programme to make the whole of its functioning website and all its vast range of resources available on 16GB Memory Stick. These Memory Sticks were then sent out, with full supporting information, to over 60 obstetrician/gynecologists in Africa who had kindly agreed to act as “Ambassadors for GLOWM” and to download them at a minimum of three medical schools, hospitals and clinics in their local area that either had no internet or slow/unreliable internet. The results have been splendidly encouraging. Many Ambassadors have far exceeded the minimum target of three downloads and they continue to report to us on the responses that they have received. The names of all the Ambassadors, their locations and their reports can now be read simply by going to the Home Page of *The Global Library* website and clicking on the word “Ambassadors”.

In addition to this distribution, FIGO itself kindly sent 4 Memory Sticks to each of its 125 affiliated Societies around the world – and the response from them have been equally positive and worthwhile. It is, therefore, our intention to provide updated Memory Sticks in 2016 when many of the resources available from *The Global Library* will have been updated – and when, we estimate, they will also have almost have doubled in extent.

It is surprising how many locations, principally in less-resourced countries, have reported in the past that they were unable to use *The Global Library's* resources because of a lack of reliable internet connectivity. Hopefully this will be resolved at some time in the future but at present it remains a serious issue – and yet it often just these kind of locations that have in the past had great difficulty in obtaining conventional printed information. So we are particularly pleased that the innovative concept of using Memory Sticks to provide the full website to such places has worked so well. Because so many Ambassadors are located in relatively hard-to-access locations all the packages were sent to them by special DHL courier service so that they could be traceable to their final destination – and we are pleased to report that almost all of them did arrive safely!

We are immensely grateful to the many “Ambassadors” who have volunteered their time to download the Memory Sticks and to keep us informed of the responses that they have received from places where this has been done. All their ongoing reports and comments can be read at this link (www.glowm.com/glowm_ambassadors) but typical quotes are as follows:

“Thank you so much for the stick and other materials which I received safely. I have since introduced the stick and downloaded it in the databases of 10 hospitals in Nigeria. I will forward the addresses and contact details of the hospitals to you very soon. I will now request them to give me feedback on their use of the stick, so I can advice you appropriately.

I will get back to you soon.”

Dr Friday Okonofua, Benin City, Nigeria

“The GLOWM is an excellent resource which is extremely useful and proofed to be very popular. I had very positive comments about its contents and its ease of use from our trainees at Soba University Hospital and other users.

The GLOWM library is now downloaded at many hospitals in Khartoum including:

Soba University Hospital

Omdurman maternity Hospital

Omdurman New Hospital

University of Medical science and technology- postgraduate library

Saad Abulela Teaching Hospital

Academy Charity Teaching Hospital

Alahfad University Library

We are in the process of taking the GLOWM to other cities in Sudan including Hasaheisa Hospital, Algeinana Teaching Hospital and Elobied Teaching Hospital.”

Dr Hala Abdullahi, Khartoum, Sudan

“I am happy to inform you that I have downloaded the resources of the GLOWM Memory Stick at the following:

All doctors working at the national Obstetric Fistula Centre, Katsina

The School of Midwifery library, Katsina

All resident doctors working in the department of Obstetric and Gynaecology, FMC, Katsina

Residents and Consultants of the Department of Obstetric and Gynaecology, Usmanu Danfodio University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto

Few nurses working the National Obstetric Fistula Centre, Katsina.”

Dr Sadir Nasir, Sokoto, Nigeria

“GLOWM is a useful tool in our daily practice as students. The offline option is a fast reference and we can access all our reading materials and books at no cost. It is helping us improve our knowledge from an easy to understand and updated source.

I have been overwhelmed by the number of people who have been looking for me to download the Memory Stick. Also, I have been writing my contacts on the poster. The website is much better known than I expected it to be.

I will soon send the details of the areas that I visit.”

Dr Eleanor Nakintu, Kampala, Uganda



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All the training resources of the “1000+OBGYNs for Africa” project have just been added to *The Global Library* website

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The 1000+ OBGYN Project is a consortium of sub-Saharan African obstetric and gynecology departments and their US OBGYN department partners, whose goal is to improve maternal and neonatal health in sub-Saharan Africa through training and also through retraining obstetrician/gynecologists to serve their communities. With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation part of this programme consist of providing mentoring support from the US partners – and part consists of making available to them quality academic and instructional materials to complement and enhance their existing OBGYN training curricula. *The Global Library* has undertaken to host these materials and also to make them available on specially extended Memory Sticks for the key selected centres in Africa.

We are very pleased to be able to support the work of this project and we hope that the many materials that it provides will also prove useful to other users of the GLOWM website. In order to incorporate all the extra resources we had to use a 32 GB Memory Stick (in contrast to the 16 GB Memory Stick used for the GLOWM website sent out to our Ambassadors). The initial Memory Sticks for this project were sent out by special DHL courier service to the selected cooperating centres in Africa in April 2015

The materials provided are ranged into four main sections: (1) Building Academic Partnerships to reduce Maternal Morbidity and Mortality (2) Hypertensive Diseases in Pregnancy (3) Hot Topics in Obstetrics and Gynecology (4) Milestone Resources for Obstetrics and Gynecology. Each section features multiple options for access to text and video-based materials. We will continue to report on the responses to this programme.



1000+ OBGYN
PROJECT



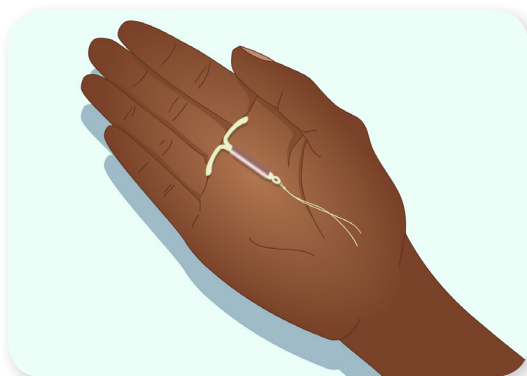
Counseling patients about postpartum IUDs

An animated video to assist those working in family planning centres, especially in less-resourced locations

The Global Library is just completing the development of a short, 5-minute, animated video to assist healthworkers in counseling women who wish to consider the use of IUDs immediately postpartum. This video will be available on *The Global Library's* website, but also as a separate DVD for playing in clinics and as a downloadable app for mobile phones. The concept is that it should not replace one-to-one professional counseling but rather that it should provide a woman with the basic facts so that when she does see a counselor the conversation can focus on specific issues relative to herself. The video is designed to be fully comprehensible to women viewers regardless of whether or not they can read – and so it is accompanied by a clear voice commentary that can quite easily be translated into a range of different languages.

Providing reliable and useful family planning information to medical professionals – and also to women themselves – has always been an objective of *The Global Library* and we already do offer a number of options in this connection. The use of PPIUDs is increasingly recognized as a very practical option for women, often in less-resourced settings, who wish to plan the size and spacing of their families. There is therefore a considerable demand for this service but often the number of personal counselors available can sometimes be insufficient for every woman to receive the individual attention she needs. This animated video has been designed, therefore, to assist in this counseling service by providing the basic information about the use of IUDs postpartum in a simple, graphic and educational way. It is hoped that women will be able to view it before receiving personal guidance and this way the time of each counselor will be better spent focusing on the women's specific issues rather than repeating the basic facts.

The video has been produced with the advice and guidance of highly experienced counselors working in this field and it is anticipated that if it proves to be genuinely useful the accompanying voice commentary (which is currently in English) can be translated into a range of other appropriate languages.



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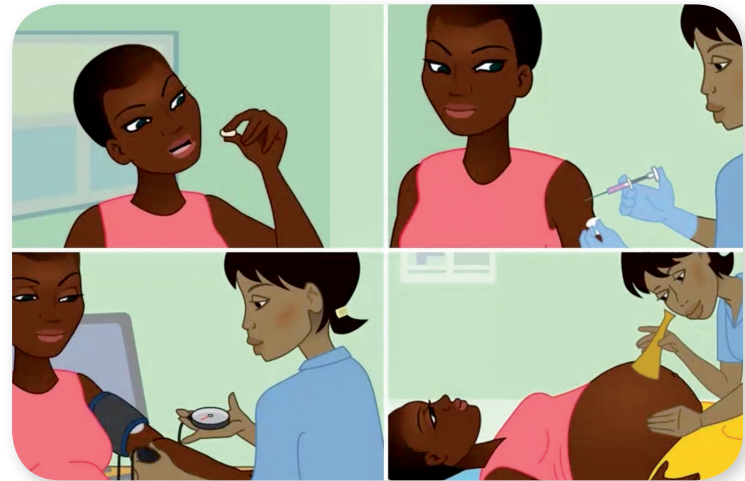
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