

BIRTHING KIT FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA



A BRIEF HISTORY

1999 – The first birthing kits were made in Adelaide, South Australia, by members of the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills. These kits were bound for Papua New Guinea.

2004 – The project was accepted as a District Project by Australian Zonta Districts 22, 23 and 24 and kits were now being made as part of the Zonta Birthing Kit Project.

2006 – Birthing Kit Foundation Australia was established as a for-purpose charity

2019 – over 2 million kits have been packed and distributed to women overseas thanks to 100,000 Australian volunteers



WHAT DOES BKFA DO?

- BKFA provides an opportunity for Australian volunteers to fundraise for and engage in the assembly of Birthing Kits.
- BKFA establishes partnerships with approved field organisations in developing countries who receive and distribute Birthing Kits to vulnerable women to help enable a clean and safe birthing environment.
- BKFA provides funding for collaborative and sustainable community development projects, supported by research and advocacy for improved maternal and newborn outcomes at the local, national and international level.

Photography: Carousel Media, Uganda 2017

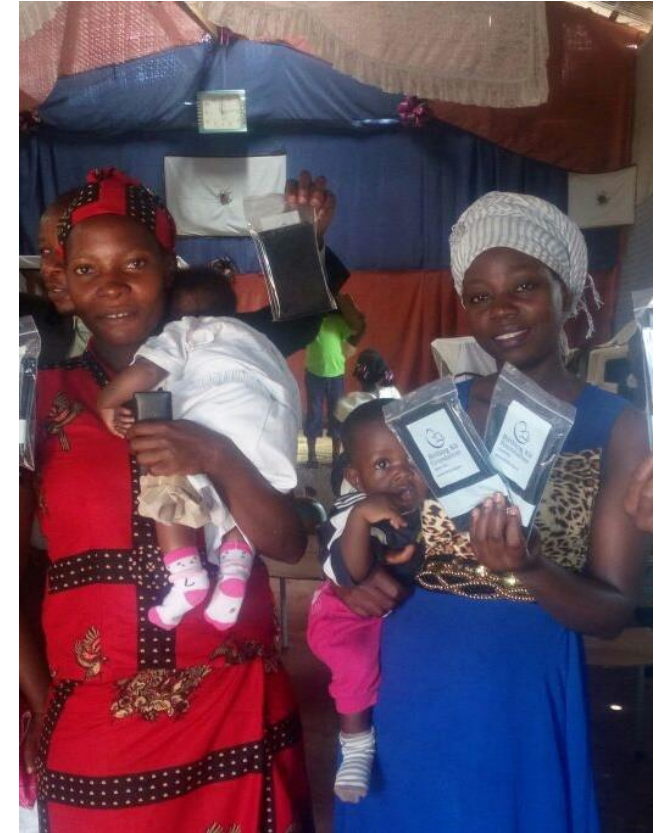


OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

Vision: A world in which preventable maternal and newborn mortality and disease has been eliminated.

Mission: BKFA works in developing countries to enable a safe pregnancy along with clean childbirth and postnatal environments

Values: BKFA works with partners who do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, religion, political beliefs, marital status, disability, age or socio-economic status.



**Birthing Kit
Foundation**
Australia

WHAT IS A BIRTHING KIT?

Birthing Kits are an internationally accepted intervention to support a clean birth. Each item in the BKFA birthing kit works to reduce infections at key high-risk moments of care during labour, birth and immediately post-birth for the mother, newborn and birth attendant.

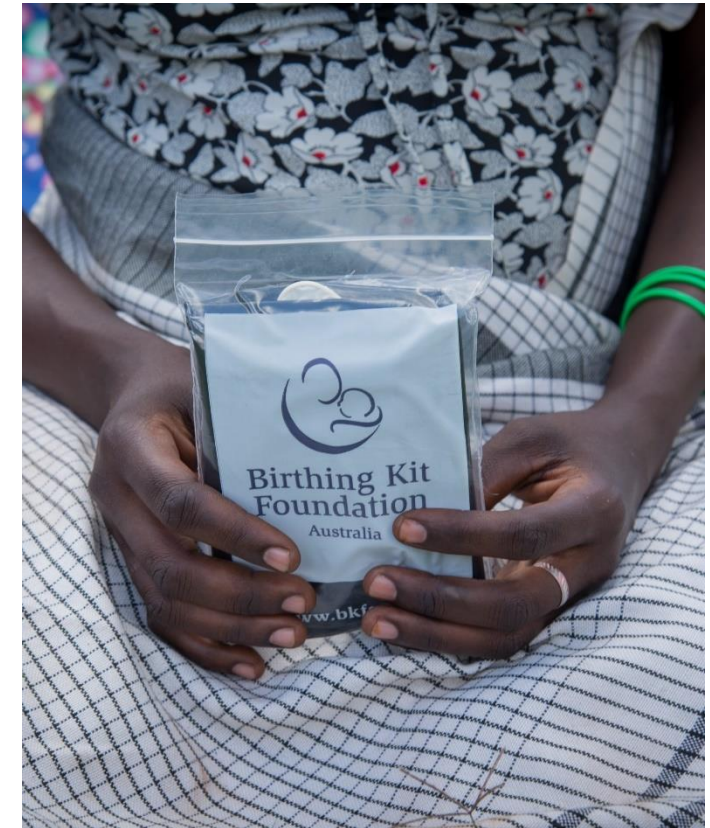
WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA recommendations* include:

- The use of a clean delivery surface
- That the eyes of the baby are wiped clean
- That ties and a blade should be used to tie and cut the umbilical cord.

BKFA birthing kits are similar to the kits distributed by large UN entities for use in emergency response settings.

*'Pregnancy, Childbirth, Postpartum and Newborn Care: A guide for essential practice, Third edition'

Photography: Carousel Media, Uganda 2017



WHAT'S IN A BIRTHING KIT?

A plastic sheet to prevent the mother and newborn coming into contact with the ground or an unhygienic surface

A sterile blade to cut the umbilical cord cleanly and reduce risk of newborn sepsis and tetanus

Gloves to cover the birth attendant's hands and provide protection from infections such as HIV for carers and care recipients

Clean cord ties to tie the umbilical cord

Gauze to wipe clear the newborn baby's eyes, and to clean the mother's perineum prior to giving birth

Soap to wash the birth attendant's hands and the mother's perineum



By providing a Birthing Kit, mothers have the resources to reduce infection at the time of childbirth.

WHY ARE BIRTHING KITS NEEDED?

It is estimated that over 300,000 women and 2.5 million babies die annually in childbirth - many from preventable infections.

Infection (such as sepsis) acquired during or directly after childbirth, is one of the leading (third most likely) causes of newborn and maternal death.

Good hygiene is critical in eliminating infection during and after childbirth.

By providing a clean birthing kit, mothers giving birth at home or with limited medical support have the resources to reduce infection.

Photography: Carousel Media, Uganda 2017



HOW ARE THEY MADE?

Birth Kits are produced in **two** ways:

1. By volunteers who fundraise and assemble the kits at Assembly Days in Australia.
2. By BKFA Field Partners who are funded by BKFA to manage the procurement and assembly of birth kits in-country.

Photography: courtesy of World Vision Australia



WHO RECEIVES THEM?

BKFA currently works with over 40 organisations in 18 countries in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean.

BKFA sends birthing kits free of charge to organisations who have been approved as a BKFA Field Partner.

Birthing Kits have most impact in settings where no other resources are available and where a larger percentage of mortalities are attributed to unclean deliveries.

Photography: Carousel Media, Uganda 2017



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - AFRICA

BKFA also manages projects in Ethiopia and Uganda that focus on **women's rights, reproductive health, community education** and **strengthening remote health services/networks** through training and advocacy.

Both initiatives have reported reductions in maternal and newborn mortality, improved health seeking behaviours, the removal of harmful cultural practices that impact women, girls and newborns and better family planning practices (delayed motherhood).



Photography: Carousel Media, Uganda 2017



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MATERNAL HEALTH PROGRESS

Statistics from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) show:

- Maternal mortality **has fallen by 37% since 2000.**
- In Eastern Asia, Northern Africa and Southern Asia, **mortality has declined by around two thirds**
- But maternal mortality ratio – the proportion of mothers that do not survive childbirth compared to those who do – in developing regions is still **14 times higher** than in the developed regions.
- More women are receiving antenatal care. In developing regions, antenatal care increased from **65 per cent in 1990 to 83 per cent in 2012.**
- **Fewer teens are having children in most developing regions**, but progress has slowed. The need for family planning is slowly being met for more women, but demand is increasing at a rapid pace.

Source: UN Website, 2019



OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Host another Assembly Day – our events make a great alternative to a traditional baby shower, social club event or team building activity and are a unique way to bring people together.
- Fundraise for BKFA (workplace giving and general donations)
- Join BKFA as a Member (individual and corporate membership)
- Leave a legacy gift to BKFA in your Will



<https://www.bkfa.org.au/get-involved/>

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING BKFA



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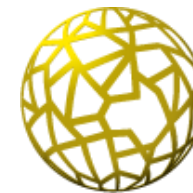
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