

JUST picture yourself in one of the Ethiopian villages where someone is giving birth without a midwife, and think about possible complications in pregnancy as many women often stay in prolonged labor.

Moreover, there is no access to a health post and poor infrastructure to reach out to.

On the other hand, picture yourself in a certain village where a mother is giving birth and suddenly the mother finds out that her new baby isn't breathing, moving or crying. She screams out for help and a midwife comes in to check on her.

Thanks to the midwife's quick and skillful treatment, the baby starts crying. Fortunately, the baby has survived. How shocking it is to hear that there are 800 women dying daily while giving birth, and pregnancy complex across the world?

The more horrifying news is that 2.9 million newborn babies (first 4 weeks) die and 2.6 million are stillborn (last 3 months of pregnancy). Globally, newborn deaths of children under 5 years now account for 44 percent. Moreover, the day of birth is the time of greatest risk of death and disability for babies and their mothers - contributing to around half of the world's 289,000 maternal deaths.

And that is why Nana Taona Kuo, senior manager of Every Women Every Child in the executive office of the secretary-general said, "There is no more poignant time now for all actors to do everything they can to end the preventable deaths of women, newborns and children within the generation. The greatest wealth a nation can have is the health of its people."

The Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Children Health (PMNCH) is an alli-

ance of more than 625 organizations from the reproductive, maternal, newborn and children health communities. Earlier last week more than 800 participants gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa, to assess progress to date and ensure women and children remain central to the post-2015 development agenda.

Since September 2005, the Partnership has played an important role in maintaining progress toward improved Reproductive Maternal Newborn Children Health (RMNCH) across each of its three strategic objectives: Knowledge Documents, High-Level Advocacy, and Promoting Accountability. The Partnership also played a key role in the development of Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP,) a road map to save the lives of 3 million newborns and women each year. From left: Aeron Mothsodoli, Tedros Adhanom and Margareth Chan

The Partners' Forum was focused on various issues related to success and setbacks of maternal and newborn health.

More importantly, it reinvigorated its effort to call up for more commitments and their speedy implementation. "Still much more remains to be done despite all efforts," Graça Machel, chairwoman of the Partners' Forum, said in her opening speech.

The inadequate coverage that has been given to women and children worldwide is still a challenge in failing to ensure that all women, adolescent girls, children and newborns, no matter where they live, are able to fulfill their rights to health and education and to realize their full potential.

"That's why we need a partnership, more strong partnership to empower ourselves ahead of the challenges," she pointed out. The world has

