

Low recognition of midwives fueling preventable deaths at birth - experts

**By Guardian
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FAILURE to recognise the contribution of midwives and subsequent lax in resource allocation is a major factor behind ongoing tragic deaths of expectant women and newborns, authorities and stakeholders have been cautioned.

Speaking recently in Musoma Rural District council at a training session held for midwives there, a practitioner from the Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) Debora Bonser said many midwives are discouraged by the uncondusive environments they are forced to work in.

She decried the poor health infrastructure in the region and elsewhere in the country and the low compensation midwives get.

"Now couple that with little to no recognition for the tremendous work and sacrifice they give every day and you end up with a work force that is

demoralised and ill motivated," she warned.

She cited these poor work conditions as the root to unethical practices by the health practitioners and the reluctance of graduates to join the field along with many professionals leaving the practice altogether.

In a related development, the Tanzania Midwives Association (TAMA) in collaboration with the Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) have announced plans to carry out a three year training programme to strengthen midwifery services in the country.

Speaking at the same event, Project Coordinator Martha Rimoy said the programme will involve emergency skills training that will be offered to at least 300 midwives across six district councils.

Rimoy said while there is improvement, more must be done to ensure the reduction of maternal and newborn deaths which is increasingly becoming a big challenge and a key part in this endeavour is the training of practitioners.