Welcome to the August issue with a special focus on #IDM2016 celebrations around the world. Many of our Member Associations organised events, held rallies, meetings, and joined in the "I am a Midwife, this is what I do" campaign. The theme for this year was - "Women and Newborns: The Heart of Midwifery". We are dedicating this newsletter issue to all midwives who are making sure that each woman and newborn has access to the best possible care before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth.

Snippets of #IDM 2016 Celebrations

We received amazing photos and reports from all over Africa, Europe, Americas, Asia! Many of you held symposiums and engaged policy makers, such as Ministers from line ministries that you work with, ambassadors, regional directors of some partner organisations, mothers and families.

We are happy to share with you snippets of how you celebrated the day.

If you missed the #IDM2016 videos

This year, The ICM President, Chief executive and all the technical midwives made a special video message to celebrate this day.

We also asked student midwives from Aberdeen University in Scotland what they like about being a midwife and what is their contribution. Watch the video HERE to hear what they said.
Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Confederation of Midwives (ZICOM) celebrated the day with partners and government policy makers. All 10 provinces were represented. Roundtable discussion with policy makers and partners was held to give them an insight into the daily life of a midwife and the challenges. Poem recital, marching band, postnatal services and partnering with journalists - indeed Zimbabwe had so much fun on this day!

School of Nursing & Midwifery Keel University, UK

Midwives, a group of staff and students set up a stall in the Potteries Intu Shopping Centre. The aim was to interact with the community and raise awareness for the day. Equipped with stickers, a pregnant abdomen for simulation use and post-it notes, passers-by were asked to write down what they think about the job midwives do. The day was a huge success! Lots of people were interested and wanted to talk about their experiences to the staff and students who attended.

Namibia

Independent Midwives Association of Namibia (IMANA), celebrated the day by visiting all maternity wards in Windhoek delivering goodie bags and cakes to all midwives! They also held a workshop. They sure had a wonderful day!

Palestine

Midwives in Gaza celebrated the day by sending 30,000 congratulations sms to Gaza and West Bank and having awareness programmes in the media. You can listen to the program HERE. Paying tribute to midwives, an engineering student composed a special poem.

Zanzibar, Tanzania

It was a proud moment for the Zanzibar midwives when the two booklets - i) Scope of practice for nurses & midwives in Zanzibar ii) The Professional code of conduct for nurses & midwives were launched. The midwives also visited the maternity ward at Mwembeladu hospital and gave presents to mothers and newborn babies.

Gabon

Members of the Gabon Midwives Association (L'Association des Sages-Femmes du Gabon - ASFG)

Cyprus

Group photo of Midwives celebrating the #IDM2016

Zambia

Student midwives singing during the ceremony
Croatia

The midwives association celebrated #IDM2016 by organising "Maternity Ward Open Door Day" all around the country. It was an awesome moment when more than half of the maternity wards supported this initiative; and they organised Open Door Day in their hospitals!

Argentina

Check out the below links to view the #IDM2016 celebrations

Video: http://bit.ly/2b8erQO


Germany

The German Association of Midwives (DHV) hosted its triennial national midwifery congress during the first week of May. Around 2,800 midwives attended this event to exchange knowledge and strengthen midwifery. The IDM slogan encouraged them to reflect the global maternal child health situation, especially with regards to refugee women and newborn children. Despite various cultural backgrounds, religions and ethnicities – women and newborns remain at the heart of midwifery. After the panel discussion midwives gathered in front of the congress building for a group picture in order to celebrate the IDM, make their work visible and acknowledge colleagues all over the globe on this special day.
Rwanda

The midwives association awarded certificates to best midwives in the country.

Lesotho

Health centres that performed facility deliveries in 2015 were awarded and other health centres encouraged to do better.

Nigeria

Members of Nigerian Midwives Association and student midwives during the #IDM2016 celebrations.

Somaliland

100 midwives and nurses attended the celebration and 9 midwives were awarded for their good work.

Afghanistan

Afghan Midwives Association (AMA) celebrated the day with the Ministry of Public Health alongside other partners.
**Ghana**

The launch of #IDM2016 event was held at the Medical School auditorium of the University of Cape Coast and was attended by about 300 midwives, students and partners. Guest of Honour who delivered the keynote speech was the first lady of Ghana represented by the Minister for Gender. Deserving midwives including students who performed creditably were recognised for their hardwork and dedication to saving lives.

**Tanzania**

Midwives marked the day with several events, which included a one day scientific conference officiated by Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Director. More than 150 midwives attended the conference. On a different occasion, Ummy Mwalim, Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, seniors and children launched the Midwifery Competency document and awarded selected midwives for their outstanding performance and contribution.

**Young Midwives in the Lead (YMLs) symposium**

ICM in collaboration with Johnson & Johnson, UNFPA, WHO, JHPIEGO and other partners, organized a “Young Midwives in the Lead” symposium. Hundreds of applications for the YMLs programme were received. But only 30 remarkable young midwives from around the world were selected to participate. One of the objectives was to showcase how investments in Young Midwifery Leaders (YML) can improve quality care within midwifery practice, highlighting the importance of investment in research, advocacy, mentorship and leadership skills of young midwife leaders.

The Symposium was preceded by a day long workshop for the YMLs, which highlighted important issues like leadership principles and effective communication. They also learnt how to analyse challenging situations and develop solutions. You can read the full story and watch their video [HERE](#).
ICM Board Members Annual Meeting

The ICM Board held its annual meeting on 28-30 June 2016 in The Hague. Approving new associate members among other things. Click HERE to read the full communiqué

New ICM Members around the globe

Since July 2015 the following associations have join ICM as full or associate members:-

**Full members**
1. Alliance of Bulgarian Midwives - [www.midwivesbulgaria.org](http://www.midwivesbulgaria.org)
2. Association Nationale des Sages-Femmes du Congo (Brazzavile)
3. Association Nationale des Sages-Femmes de Guinee
**Associate members**

1. The Asociacion Mexicana de Parteria (AMP). Read their story [HERE](#)
2. Saudi Midwifery Group
3. Brunei Darussalam Nurses Association
4. Somali Midwifery Association
5. South Sudan Nurses and Midwives Association

For more information about Membership issues click [HERE](#)

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**31st ICM Triennial Congress - Toronto, Canada**

About 4,000 midwives will gather in Toronto, Canada for the 31st ICM Triennial Congress, which is scheduled to commence on 18-22 June, 2017. The main theme for this year is *"Midwives-Making a Difference in the World"*. There will also be four daily themes around midwives making a difference through: leadership, partnership, professionalism, supporting women's and girl's rights.

The unique framework of an ICM Congress offers a diverse range of activities including: traditional peer-reviewed papers, discussion around work in progress, symposia on innovative projects; collaboration with international partners and plenary sessions with inspirational keynote speakers.

In her invitation note, the ICM President, Frances Day-Stirk said, "In 2017, two years after the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) have come to a close, major improvements in maternal health and reductions in newborn mortality and morbidity have been made. But there is much evidence to show that both midwifery personnel and services remain unequally distributed between countries as well as within countries." The ICM 31st Triennial Congress will present a new agenda and challenges, beyond the MDGs, for governments, health ministers, policy makers and local champions - but most of all for front line midwifery service providers and ICM partners who are committed to strengthening midwifery around the world."

Click [HERE](#) for all you need to know about the 31st Triennial Congress
"I am a Midwife, this is what I Do" campaign

This year during the #IDM2016 midwives were invited to share the work they do using the “I am a midwife, this is what I do” activity on social media as a celebration of midwifery around the world. We received an overwhelming response, beautiful photos and moving stories. We tried as best as we could to share all the photos and stories on our social media platforms. The campaign is on going and we encourage all those who have not yet shared their story to do so! Send us your photos and stories to communications@internationalmidwives.org.

See below a glimpse of what we received from around the globe.

Meet Colonel Pauline Nkoloma from Zambia, apart from planning peace keeping missions she is also saving lives of mothers and newborns!

Hello everyone, I am Esmeralda Lamaj from Albania. I am a midwife & I love my work!

My name is Tove, I am a midwife from Sweden, this is what I do. I encourage and support new families. Here on a check-up on day four.
My name is Linda, I am a midwife from Sweden, this is what I do: I'm trying to find a comfortable position so I can protect this woman's perineum while she's giving birth on her knees.

I am Nadya Nassor Gharib, midwife from Zanzibar, Tanzania. I am the head of neonatal ward at the referral and teaching hospital of Mnazi Mmoja. I ensure clinical teaching of midwifery students is up to standards so that they provide better care for mothers and newborns in the future.

Mina Timutimu, New Zealand College of Midwives kaumatua (elder) since 1996 was named a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in this year’s New Year’s Honours list. Mina received her award at Government House, Wellington recently.
The MNZM recognises achievement or service to the community, usually in a national role and in Mina’s case recognises her work over 50 years as a midwife, nurse and advocate for Māori health. The New Zealand College of Midwives nominated Mina for the award and College Chief Executive Karen Guilliland said: “Mina has dedicated her working life to community work and health promotion for Māori mothers and babies in particular. She is a visionary kaitiaki (guardian) to the College and her insights and teachings have helped midwifery improve outcomes for mothers and babies.”

The College marked Mina’s achievement by profiling her in the College magazine Midwifery News

**News Flash**

**2016 Global Citizen Festival**

Sandra Rumi a Young Midwife Leader from Bangladesh has been selected to participate in the Global Citizen Festival as one of the “Young Leaders of 2020” sponsored by Johnson and Johnson.

Sandra is among the 30 Young Midwife Leaders (YMLs) who attended the Young Midwives in the Lead symposium during the Women Deliver Global Conference. Currently she works as a Nurse Midwifery Technical officer at BRAC University in Bangladesh.

The Global Citizen Festival is now in its fifth year; and the young leaders are expected to help in elevating the voices and perspectives of youth in key issues surrounding global health. “As a Global Young Midwife Leader I will lead my nation to ensure safe delivery with respectful maternity care and healthy newborn.” Sandra said. To read the full story click [HERE](#).
Awards announcement

ICM in collaboration with Johnson and Johnson are happy to announce the three awards. The winners of the awards will receive financial support, full sponsorship to the 2017 ICM Congress in Toronto, Canada or regional conference where a winner will be recognised during the award ceremony. Furthermore, the winners will have an opportunity to share the project during the ICM Congress and in the International Journal of Childbirth (IJC). **Deadline to submit proposals is 15th September 2016.**

Marie Goubran Agent of Change Award

Education Award

Research Award

Upcoming events

17-22 August - [International Congress of Pediatrics](#)

28 August - 02 September - [World Water week](#)

7-9 September - [East & Central African College of Nursing (ECSACON)](#)

08 - 10 September - [ISA/ISPID International Conference on Stillbirth, SIDS and Baby Survival](#)

13 -20 September - [Opening session of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly](#)

20 September - [General Debate of 71st session of United Nations](#)

20-22 September - [25 years of Baby Friendly Hospitals Initiative](#)

22-24 September - [Global Citizen Festival](#)

26 September - [World Contraception Day](#)