

Overcoming the heat-barrier to prevent postpartum haemorrhage (PPH)

PPH, or excessive bleeding after childbirth, is the **leading direct cause of maternal mortality worldwide**¹

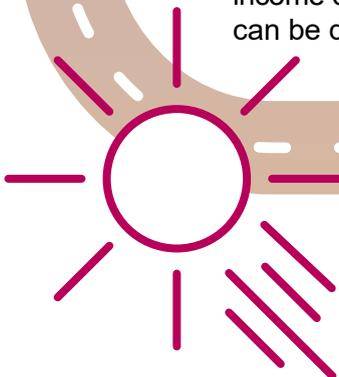
The World Health Organization (WHO) believes **most of these deaths are preventable** with effective treatment²



Over 90%

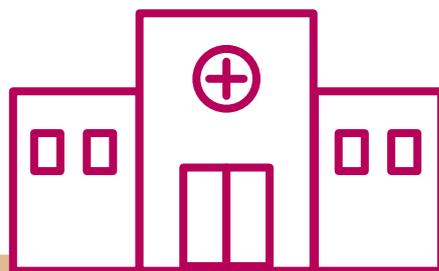
of PPH deaths occur in low- and lower-middle income countries⁵ where cold-chain storage can be difficult to achieve and maintain.³

The current standard of care medicine for PPH needs to be stored between **2–8°C** in order to maintain its effectiveness^{3,4}



22%

of health facilities surveyed across **64 countries** have no refrigerators⁶



Medicines can be exposed to

30°C

⁷

Only

1 in 4

healthcare staff may be trained to maintain cold storage and distribution⁸



New solutions are urgently needed to **prevent PPH in the countries which face the highest burden.**

References

1. Say L, *et al.* Global causes of maternal death: a WHO systematic analysis. *Lancet Global Health*. 2014;2(6):323-33.
2. World Health Organization. WHO recommendations for the prevention and treatment of postpartum haemorrhage. Published 2018. Available at <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/277276/9789241550420-eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1> Last accessed: May 2020.
3. Widmer M, *et al.* Room temperature stable carbetocin for the prevention of postpartum haemorrhage during the third stage of labour in women delivering vaginally: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *Trials* 2016;17(1):143.
4. Torloni MR, *et al.* Quality of Oxytocin Available in Low and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review of the Literature (Systematic Review on Quality of Oxytocin). *An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2016;123(13):2076-2086.
5. World Health Organization. Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2017. 2019. Available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/327596/WHO-RHR-19.23-eng.pdf> Last accessed: December 2020
6. World Health Organization. What is a Controlled Temperature Chain (CTC)? Available at: http://www.who.int/immunization/programmes_systems/supply_chain/resources/WHO_CTC_Infographic.pdf?ua=1 Last accessed: May 2020.
7. Kartoglu U, *et al.* Stability of oxytocin along the supply chain: A WHO observational study. *Biologicals* 2017; 50:117-124. Available at: http://kartoglu.ch/papers/00_stability_of_oxytocin_GHANA.pdf Last accessed: May 2020.
8. Immunization Supply Chain Policy Environment in Uganda. Landscape Analysis and Advocacy Recommendations. Published 2016. Available at: http://www.path.org/publications/files/APP_landscape_analysis_uganda_rpt.pdf Last accessed: May 2020.