ICM Congress this year marks a pivotal moment in midwifery with the global launch of the State of the World’s Midwifery (SoWMy) report. The report will give an in-depth analysis of midwifery care in the 60 countries that experience the highest rates of maternal and newborn mortality worldwide. Over 1700 midwives from 80 countries have already registered to attend. Register now to secure your place at this landmark midwifery event.

The State of the World’s Midwifery report, co-ordinated and financed by UNFPA with support from the WHO, ICM, US, UK, Norwegian, Swedish and Dutch international development agencies, and others, draws the world’s attention to the need for greater and more equitable access to essential midwifery services as the 2015 deadline for Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5 approaches. The report will be used by governments and policy makers as a benchmark for maternal healthcare service development. The report is expected to provide one of the most important advocacy tools for midwifery services around the world and its launch is just one of the many groundbreaking events planned for Congress 2011.

Countries featured in report that have registered so far...

Afghanistan… Botswana… Burkina Faso… Democratic Republic of Congo… Cote d’Ivoire… Ghana… Ethiopia… Madagascar… Malawi… Cambodia… Haiti… India… Indonesia… Nepal… Nigeria… South Africa… Sudan… Uganda… Republic of Tanzania… Yemen… Zambia… Zimbabwe

Top 10 Congress registrations by country

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<th>South Africa</th>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>India</td>
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ICM Congress Programme now online
Attendance at some workshops will be limited, register here to select your workshops and secure your place.

ICM Congress partner panels

Daily Partner Panels will provide an opportunity for delegates to hear from ICM’s global partners UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), FIGO (International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics), the Gates Foundation and Jhpiego alongside other key contributors to the achievement of MDG 5.
With only five years left to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), efforts are being scaled up to accelerate progress. Of particular concern is making progress towards women's and children's health as set out in MDGs 4 & 5, which have been referred to as the lagging MDGs.

The United Nations Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, developed with the support of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and is a multi constituency strategy to accelerate progress towards maternal, newborn and child health. In September 2010, the Global Strategy was endorsed by 192 countries at a special session of the United Nations General Assembly. This was accompanied by over 90 commitments from all constituencies, including health care professionals, totalling US$40 billion in financial commitments and also policy and service delivery commitments.

As a priority, the Global Strategy highlights the need to invest in the development and distribution of quality health care providers. In 2015 alone, commitments to the Global Strategy would enable up to 3.5 more health workers to be recruited. This statement of the importance of human resources to improved health outcomes is aligned with the recommendations in the 2006 World Health Report, various Lancet articles, and the 2009 Consensus for MNCH.

Notably the role of midwives as the key service provider to ensure skilled birth attendance is clearly emphasized. Many of the commitments made in line with the Global Strategy highlight this trend such as that of Rwanda to train five times more midwives (increasing the ratio from 1/100,000 to 1/20,000) (see annex 1 for more human resource commitments). Midwives and their professional associations, as front line providers of the care that saves lives of women and children are crucial to the definition of adequate policies especially in regards to human resources for MNCH. Midwifery associations must play a leading role in global, regional and national advocacy to ensure a conducive policy environment for the scale-up of midwifery professionals.

Road to Durban *midwives walking for women of the world*

On the **18 June** midwives and supporters from around the world will gather to take part in the final stage of the Road to Durban—walking 5km along the Durban seafront—to demonstrate shared commitment to tackling maternal and newborn mortality. Over a 1000 people are expected to attend. There is no doubt that the event has gripped the imagination of people through the world and media interest is growing. If you want to take part in this exciting global action please remember that you will need to arrange travel and accommodation to arrive the day before Congress. We will be gathering at the Moses Mabhida Stadium at 13:00 on Saturday 18 June for a 14:00 start. The eyes of the world will be on midwives in Durban—**will you be there?**
Durban on a budget?

Accommodation

The ICM Congress website provides information on a number of accommodation options including B & Bs. All budgets can be catered for in Durban with single rooms starting at 90 USD or 50 euros per person. If you know that a colleague is attending, perhaps you can make plans to share a room and bring your costs down.

For a small fee (150 Rand), the Durban conference company will arrange your bookings and transfers. This will mean you can be assured that you don’t pay more than you should and will also ensure that your payments and bookings are secure.

Working out your daily costs– below are some average costs for eating and drinking in restaurants and bars in the city

1 can of coke **Rand 14 / USD 2 / Euro 1.40**
1 330ml can of imported beer **15 Rand/ USD 2.15 /Euro 1.50**
1 Big Mac burger **Rand 18/USD 2.60/ Euro 2**
3-course meal in a mid-range restaurant **Rand 140/ USD 20/ Euro 16**
1 bottle of good red or white wine **Rand100– 150 / USD14-20/ Euro 10-15**