

light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones. — Proverbs 15:30

Every life is precious to God. But where there is extreme poverty, the dangers for pregnant women, new mothers, and their babies are very real. Today, approximately 2.7 million newborns die each year, and 99% of maternal deaths are in developing countries.

Pregnancy without regular health checkups and giving birth without a doctor or midwife are scary prospects for a mother and her family. It's a reality that is hard for us to imagine here in Canada. But there is hope for new moms and their babies.

In rural Mozambique, World Renew trains local community members to become local health volunteers and traditional birth attendants (TBAs). TBAs make sure that women in the community receive prenatal care, and they accompany mothers in labour to the local clinic. Giving birth at the clinic with skilled care gives mothers and babies the best chance at survival.

Health volunteers also ensure that as babies and children grow, they stay healthy. They encourage breastfeeding, teach parents proper nutrition, and monitor the children's growth milestones. At every stage, these community caregivers walk



alongside new mothers, giving them a sense of safety, care, and hope.

The volunteers know that this life-saving work matters. Many walk or bike long distances over difficult terrain just to get to the clinic. All have different, compelling reasons to help. "We want to help our community," said one volunteer. "We want to learn new things," offered another. But most inspiring was the volunteer who shared, "God sees what we are doing."

These are World Renew's health volunteers, and these are the hands that deliver hope.

This Sunday help train a local health volunteer, someone who offers the hands of hope to new mothers and their babies.

