


# Stillbirths: A Neglected Tragedy



An estimated  
**2.6 million**  
stillbirths occur  
every year



Every day  
**7000**  
**women**

experience  
a stillbirth

## Key causes:



Pregnancy and  
childbirth complications



Lifestyle  
factors



Diabetes and  
hypertension



Maternal Infections, like  
syphilis, malaria and HIV



Preterm  
birth



Birth  
defects

Most stillbirths are **preventable** before,  
during and after pregnancy

Family  
planning



Good  
health and  
nutrition



Quality  
antenatal  
care



Quality care  
during labour  
and childbirth



Most stillbirths **do not**  
**receive a birth or**  
**death certificate**



**Better data** on the number  
and causes are needed to  
understand the true burden  
and prevent **future deaths**



**60%** occur in  
rural areas



**98%** occur in  
low- and middle-  
income countries



**Half** occur in  
settings of conflict  
or emergency



**Half** occur  
during labour



World Health  
Organization