

PROJECTS FOR CHANGE:

Thinking Outside the Box to
Improve the Lives of Refugees



Women's Refugee Commission

University of California, San Francisco

The Safe Motherhood Program and Lifewraps

The Safe Motherhood Program is a research group of the University of California, San Francisco, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and the Bixby Centre for Global Reproductive Health. Focusing on maternal health, its LifeWrap (a body wrap to stabilize pregnancy-related bleeding) project is at the forefront of the program's research into ways to end maternal deaths.

Resembling a wet suit with a split down the middle, the non-pneumatic anti-shock garment (NASG) was originally designed by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency. When wrapped around the body, it reduces hemorrhage by applying pressure to the lower body—where blood collects during shock—to return blood to the vital organs.

A woman somewhere in the world dies every four minutes from obstetric hemorrhage, most often immediately after giving birth. The LifeWrap helps women survive delays in getting to a hospital and obtaining the necessary treatment. It can be applied by anyone after a short, simple training. To date, it has been used on more than 2,000 women.

In addition to piloting the LifeWrap, the Safe Motherhood Program conducts rigorous research, trains clinicians in low-resource settings, and endeavors to raise community awareness of maternal health by disseminating information and innovations globally.

Learn more at lifewraps.org

