



CLAUDIA LEMA, Peru

Claudia Lema works to reduce the number of women who die needlessly in childbirth in Indigenous communities in Peru. She is firmly committed to supporting women to pressure the government to make health care services meet their needs.



GIVING LIFE, RISKING DEATH

Peru has one of the highest rates of women dying in childbirth in the Americas. The United Nations estimates that 240 women die for every 100,000 live births. Most of these are rural, poor and Indigenous women. They are dying because they face a number of barriers such as a lack of access to emergency care, lack of information and a lack of health staff who can speak Indigenous languages.

BRINGING WOMEN CLOSER TO HEALTH CARE

Claudia Lema works with poor and Indigenous women in rural communities in Peru. Her work is centred around bringing health services closer to women by making them more culturally appropriate

and geographically more accessible - for instance through radio communication and emergency transport.

She also does this by supporting communities to organize themselves in order to participate and influence how health care is provided by talking with local and national authorities.

Claudia is the director of Salud Sin Límites Perú. Her organization also provides training for health professionals working with pregnant women in Indigenous communities on how to use traditional methods for giving birth which women prefer, such as giving birth standing up rather than lying down.

"I think it is extremely worrying that poor and Indigenous women in our country are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women who live in urban areas." - Claudia Lema.

To support Claudia Lema's work please go to: www.amnesty.org/worldcup2010

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