



# Retention Rates and Impact of Traditional Birth Attendants in Tanzanian Rural Healthcare Systems on Maternal Mortality Reduction: A Three-Year Intervention Study

Chituwo Mponda<sup>1</sup>, Simiyu Kibali<sup>2,3</sup>, Kamili Mwangaba<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Internal Medicine, Mkwawa University College of Education

<sup>3</sup> Ardhi University, Dar es Salaam

<sup>4</sup> Department of Surgery, Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS)

**Published:** 21 February 2011 | **Received:** 16 November 2010 | **Accepted:** 31 December 2010

**Correspondence:** [cmponda@gmail.com](mailto:cmponda@gmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18940787](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18940787)

## Author notes

*Chituwo Mponda is affiliated with Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS) and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Simiyu Kibali is affiliated with Department of Internal Medicine, Mkwawa University College of Education and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Kamili Mwangaba is affiliated with Ardhi University, Dar es Salaam and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) play a significant role in maternal healthcare in Tanzanian rural areas, yet their effectiveness and integration into formal health systems remain under-researched. A mixed-methods approach including surveys, interviews, and observational studies was employed to evaluate TBA performance and patient outcomes. TBAs maintained a consistent presence in healthcare facilities with a retention rate of 85% over three years. However, their direct intervention reduced maternal mortality by an average of 12%, though the impact varied significantly across different regions. The study highlights the importance of TBAs in rural healthcare and suggests that enhanced training could further improve their effectiveness in reducing maternal deaths. Rural health authorities should prioritise retaining and supporting TBAs while also investing in community education programmes to complement TBA services. Traditional Birth Attendants, Maternal Mortality Reduction, Rural Healthcare Systems, Tanzania Treatment effect was estimated with  $\text{text}\{\text{logit}\}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta^T p X_i$ , and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

**Keywords:** African, Geographic, Anthropology, Maternal Health, Evaluation, Retention, Community Engagement

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge