

## May 2010: Easy learning exercise

**343,000** women died due to pregnancy or childbirth in 2008, and **8.8 million** children under 5 also die every year.

Most of these deaths are **preventable**. **Universal access to 23 proven solutions** could prevent **over 60%** of child deaths. These solutions are things like **breastfeeding, vaccinations, insecticide-treated nets and safe sanitation**.

At the next G8 meeting, to be held in **Canada in June**, the Canadian Government has announced that they are working toward a **major initiative on maternal and child health**.

It is crucial that this initiative champions **the proven solutions that could make all the difference**, and that funding is delivered through **mechanisms that are efficient and transparent** such as the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**.

The Global Fund saved **4.9 million** lives between **2002 and 2008**, and makes a **huge contribution** to maternal and child health.

But it is facing a **funding crisis** – it needs an additional **\$20 billion from 2011 to 2013**. The UK government **should pledge further financing to the Global Fund and to wider maternal and child health initiatives at the G8**.