

ICM Membership Brochure



**International
Confederation
of Midwives**

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

Who We Are

The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) is a non-governmental organisation which supports, represents and works to strengthen professional associations of midwives throughout the world. We currently have 132 Member Associations, representing midwives from 113 countries across every continent. ICM is organised into six regions: Africa, the Americas, South East Asia, Eastern Mediterranean, Western Pacific and Europe. Together these associations represent more than 500,000 midwives globally.

Our Vision

ICM envisions a world where every childbearing woman has access to a midwife's care for herself and her newborn.

Our Mission

To strengthen Midwives Associations and to advance the profession of midwifery globally by promoting autonomous midwives as the most appropriate caregivers for childbearing women and in keeping birth normal, in order to enhance the reproductive health of women, and the health of their newborn and their families.

What We Do

ICM works with its Member Associations to build greater advocacy capacity in-country to extend the influence of midwives within national policy discussions and development, with the ultimate outcome of achieving quality midwife-led and women centred maternity services.

A rights-based approach

At the core of all ICM does and all that it advocates for, two key beliefs underpin everything: Women's rights and midwives' rights are human rights. A woman's right to access a midwife throughout the childbirth continuum, is a human right; a midwife's right to the respect, recognition, education, regulation and support needed to practise professionally to work to her potential is also a human right.

Global

As the global representative body for midwives, ICM supports the capacity building of midwives and health systems around sexual, reproductive,

maternal and newborn health (SRMNH) to ensure that all women have access to competent and professional midwives who are appropriately educated, skilled, regulated and supported to provide quality midwifery care across all settings.

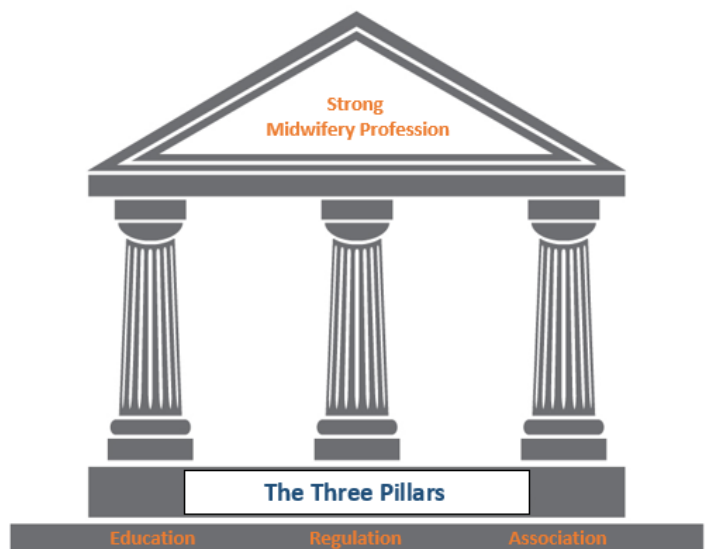
ICM is a key stakeholder and partner towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

In partnership

ICM is also a core partner in sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (SRMNCAH) partnerships that seek to break down silos across governmental and civil society movements to improve health outcomes for women, girls, newborns, and their families within the childbirth continuum.

ICM Global Standards, Competencies and Resources

The use of global standards, global competencies and various ICM resources, ensures that midwives



in all countries have effective education, regulation and strong associations and work to the same global standards and competencies for midwifery practice. ICM has developed various interrelated ICM Core Documents which guide Midwives Associations and their Governments to review and improve the education and regulation of midwives and midwifery practice. ICM supports countries to establish and retain a quality midwifery workforce and ensure that midwives have their rightful place in the provision of maternal and newborn health

care in their countries so that governments get the best out of their investment in midwives and midwifery services.

The Three Pillars

The Three Pillars of a strong midwifery profession are:

- **Education**
To provide a highly competent, qualified midwife workforce that meets global standards
- **Regulation**
To license/register professional midwives and regulate their practice to global standards
- **Association**
To provide professional support for midwife members

By strengthening midwifery education, regulation and individual midwives associations the ICM so enhances the ability of midwives worldwide to achieve the goal of caring for every woman during childbirth.

Membership Benefits

Contribute to midwifery on a global level

- Shape ICM's direction through your Association's representation on the ICM Council – the highest governing body of ICM – to influence ICM policy & strategies;
- Contribute to global projects, meetings, and publications such as the preparation of the State of the World's Midwifery (SoWMy) report;
- Help ICM advocate to raise the status of women and midwives and investment in midwives to increase quality care – use ICM's monthly advocacy toolkits and resources
- Nominate midwives from your association to one of ICM's three Standing Committees: Research, Education, and Regulation; - and help ICM to strengthen these areas for midwives
- Encourage a member from your association to put themselves forward for election as a Board member

- Be the next Midwives Association to co-host the ICM Triennial Congress.

Strengthen your Association and Midwives in your country

- Be the next Midwives Association to co-host an ICM Regional Conference
- Increase your skills, knowledge and networking opportunities through participation in ICM workshops at regional conferences and the ICM Triennial Congress;
- Collaborate on ICM projects and initiatives in your country;
- Use ICM resources such as the Global Standards and the Member Association Capacity Assessment Tool (MACAT) to identify and prioritize activities that will strengthen your Association's capacity;
- Contact the ICM Head Office or the Board for any support, assistance, advice;

Increase your Association's international visibility

- Be featured in the ICM Midwives Realities Midwives Voices (MRMV) [BLOG](#)
- Have your midwives association named and geo-coded on the ICM Global Midwives Map and populate the map with data on midwifery Education and Regulation from your country
- Increase your credibility by being part of an international organization highly respected globally and nationally by governments and institutions including the World Health Organisation and the United Nations;
- Send in your own Association's news, press releases, events and stories from the field to be published through ICM platforms

Membership Responsibilities

As a Member Association of ICM, you are responsible to:

- Ensure your association’s objectives and activities are in line with ICM’s vision, mission and strategy;
- Contribute to ICM’s Strategy directly and/or indirectly at a national, regional and/or global level;
- Nominate two ICM Council delegates for every triennium to adequately represent your Association. Council is the highest governing body of ICM. (More information about Council’s functions and duties can be found in *ICM Council Brochure*).
- Assist and support your appointed Council delegates in carrying out their duties.
- Circulate the ICM Newsletter to all your association members
- Identify the needs of midwives in your country and work with the ICM regional Board Member to bring your issues forward.
- Pay the annual ICM Membership fee.

ICM also strongly encourages its members to:

- Communicate regularly with ICM Head Office to keep the staff up to date on any relevant changes in your Association, focal points and contact details;
- Regularly share with ICM your stories – activities, best practices, reports, projects, events and news related to Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health in your country – for the ICM website and newsletter and to contribute to ICM’s advocacy activities;
- Implement and organise activities which contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially Goal 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing, and Goal 4 – Quality Education.
- Attend and/or participate (e.g. send an abstract) for the ICM Triennial Congress and the regional conferences/regional meetings;
- Promote, build and sustain networks and relationships with other ICM Members;
- Introduce ICM to midwives and midwives associations

- Tell ICM how best it can be of benefit to midwives, not only in your country but also everywhere

Membership Categories

ICM offers three categories of Membership.

Full Membership

Full members must meet the 5 criteria for membership and are entitled to full member rights and conditions. Under this category, there are two sub-categories:

- Individual Member Association
Consists of a single midwives association or a midwifery section within another association that meets the 5 criteria required for membership.
- Collective Midwives Association
Consists of a group of midwives from geographically aligned small countries or entities (e.g. islands) that collectively meet the 5 criteria required for membership.

Affiliate Membership

This category applies to the following type of organizations:

- Regional Midwives Associations whose membership comprises midwives associations from different countries within the same geographical region (in the world). Regional Midwives Association may include members and/or non-members of ICM.
- Bodies that have the authority to regulate midwifery.

The affiliate membership category exists to achieve two objectives:

- Promote and strengthen harmonization between regional and global midwifery.
- Develop and strengthen relationship between ICM, midwives associations and regulatory authorities to advance the midwifery profession.

These members have restricted membership rights and obligations (see below).

Associate Membership

This category consists of midwives associations that do not meet all the criteria, and therefore ineligible, but that are moving towards achieving

the membership criteria. Associate members have restricted membership rights and obligations – see below. There will be no direct application to the category and qualification will be determined by the ICM Board.

Criteria for Becoming a Member

Please note that associations, not individuals may apply for membership.

Only Full Members are entitled to full membership rights and conditions.

The term ‘midwife’ or ‘midwives’ in the criteria below refers to those who meet the International Definition of the Midwife.

Full Membership

In order to apply for ICM Full Membership, your association must:

- Be an association of midwives, or an association comprised of midwives and other health professions, provided that a midwifery section exists with its own chairperson, and meetings for the conduct of midwifery are held separately from those of other professions (Article 3(ii) of the Constitution). The association or midwifery section must primarily consist of midwives
- Has governance processes that demonstrate its single purpose is to conduct the affairs of midwifery and meets the requirements of Article 4(ii) of ICM Constitution. This could take the form of a Constitution
- Be able to pay the membership fees.
- Be in a country that registers midwives and/or legally licenses to practice
- Be in a country or in countries with recognized Midwifery Education Programme(s) that prepares midwives to meet the ICM International Definition of Midwives.

Associate Membership

Associate Membership will be considered by the ICM Board when the Association does not meet the 5 criteria for Full Membership.

Affiliate Membership

- Be a Regional Midwives Association or a body that regulates midwifery
- Be able to pay the membership fees
- For Regional Midwives Association: Has governance processes that demonstrate its single purpose is to conduct the affairs of midwifery and meets the requirements of Article 4(ii) of ICM Constitution. This could take the form of a Constitution
- For body that regulates midwifery: Has an Act of Parliament or a legal document that authorizes the body to regulate the midwifery profession.

Restricted rights of Affiliate and Associate members

The restricted rights are as follows:

- May engage or participate in ICM’s projects and activities as appropriate and determined by ICM.
- Obligated to pay annual membership fees
- Eligible to attend ICM Council meetings as observers;
- May not speak to issues at ICM Council meetings;
- May not submit motions, discussion points or position statements for Council;
- May not vote at Council or Regional meetings;
- May not submit a nomination for a Board member position;

How to Apply

If you are interested in becoming a member of ICM, you should complete the relevant form accessible online or through the ICM Membership Coordinator:

membership@internationalmidwives.org