



## Weekly News Review – 5 May 2017

Today is [International Day of the Midwife](#), which was marked in the press and on social media with stories about the [importance of midwives in maternal care](#), in [reducing maternal deaths](#), and the importance the individuals can make, in [Liberia](#), [Zimbabwe](#), [Somalia](#), and [Uganda](#), among others. In Uganda two additional aspects to the story: MPs calling for [more midwives to be trained](#), and a health minister [accusing some midwives of belittling patients](#) because of their own past experience with domestic violence. And in Nigeria, [100 midwives were taken out of retirement](#) because there aren't enough new trainees to take over. Do have a look at [CIRHT's post about midwife training](#) on our website.

US restrictions on family planning and reproductive health continue to cast a shadow over organizations domestically and [internationally](#). The Trump Administration appointed a [“contraceptive skeptic”](#) to be in charge of family planning disbursements, and signed an executive order allowing religious employers to [deny contraception insurance](#) coverage; the American Health Care Act, passed by the House to replace Obamacare, [defunds Planned Parenthood](#) and includes sexual assault, C-sections, domestic abuse, pregnancy, and postpartum depression as [“pre-existing conditions.”](#) On the international front, the Kaiser Family Foundation concluded that [“the majority of countries that received U.S. bilateral global health assistance... allow for legal abortion](#) in at least one case not permissible by the MCP...accounting for 53% of bilateral global health assistance.” In the other countries, some other activities are prohibited by the policy.

The [fighting in South Sudan](#) is forcing pregnant women to flee into the bush or across the border, sometimes having their babies along the way. One report from a refugee camp in Uganda, says that the crisis offers [“an opportunity to be seized.”](#)

And from opposite sides of the Maghreb, [Morocco announced that its maternal mortality ratio](#) has dropped to 72.6, while in Egypt, President Sisi said, [“Population growth is no less dangerous than terrorism.”](#)

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