

Maternal Survival Terms

Standard Western Medical Terminology	Local Language Standard	Local Language Slang	Special Meaning
Normal Birth			
<i>Example: normal vaginal birth</i>	<i>birth</i>	<i>goyo nyathi piny</i>	<i>bringing the child into the universe</i>
amniotic sac			
antenatal care			
birth preparation			
breastfeeding			
breasts			
check-up			
childbirth			
doctor's visit			
early postpartum period (within 24 hours, up to 2 weeks after)			
healthy			
normal vaginal delivery			
husband/partner			
labor pains			
menstrual period			
mother in law			
multipara (woman who has given birth five or more times)			
newborn			
new mother/ recently delivered woman			
onset of labor			
pain/ discomfort			
perineum			
placenta			
primipara (woman who has never given birth)			
pregnant / pregnancy			
pregnant woman			
purification/ cleansing			
ruptured membranes ("breaking of waters")			
skilled attendant			
traditional birth attendant (TBA)			
traditional childbirth caregiver other than TBA			
trained TBA			
twins			
umbilical cord			
uterus			
vagina			
Obstetric Complications and Emergencies			
abortion (therapeutic abortion or to end unwanted pregnancy)			
anemia			

baby dead in uterus/ born dead			
eclampsia (fits, seizures)			
fever			
foul smelling lochia			
hemorrhage			
high blood pressure			
hypertension			
infertile			
local obstetric illnesses			
lochia (normal bloody vaginal discharge after birth)			
malaria			
menstrual bleeding			
miscarriage (spontaneous abortion)			
obstetric problem, complication, or emergency			
obstructed labor			
other vaginal bleeding			
preeclampsia			
prolonged labor			
retained placenta			
ruptured uterus			
sepsis (severe infection)			
swollen			
uterine prolapse			
vesicovaginal fistulae			
Treatments			
anaesthesia			
antibiotics			
blood transfusion			
caesarian section			
d&c			
injection			
iron tablets/ vitamins			
IV			
local treatments			
malaria medications			
obstetric equipment or procedures (forceps, ultrasound, etc.)			
oxytocin (medication to stimulate uterine contraction)			
Cultural and Social Context			
birth and early postpartum ceremonies, rituals, and practices			
dignity			
embarrassment			
honor			
modesty			
natural			
normal/ routine			
pride/ proud			
privacy			

providers of social support, special confidantes, "secrets" or confidences shared with others			
shame			
special foods or special treatment for childbirth, early postpartum, post partum			
Timing			
1st trimester			
2nd trimester			
3rd trimester			
day			
early			
evening			
late			
night			
midnight			
morning			
on time			
timely			
too late			
too soon			
other ways of stating and remembering time			
other timing events in labor and birth			