

# MUZALEMA MWANZA

Safe Motherhood Alliance

2020 Global Fellow



## BIG BOLD IDEA

Provide affordable healthcare for pregnant women in underserved communities in Zambia by equipping low-resource areas with the materials and capacity to create safe, sterile spaces for birth.

## ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Safe Motherhood Alliance develops and distributes innovative, climate-smart healthcare products that meet the unique needs of pregnant women living in low-resource settings and rural areas. Safe births in Sub-Saharan Africa are a challenge, and the Safe Motherhood Alliance understands that anxiety over childbirth can often lead to using unsafe practices. Its work focuses on removing anxiety from the birth process and rebuilding trust between communities and clinics. Safe Motherhood Alliance's vision is to advance women's access to healthcare by engaging spheres of influence that affect their choices, so they can deliver a healthier and wealthier world, passed on for generations.

## PERSONAL BIO

Muzalema Mwanza is the co-founder of Safe Motherhood Alliance, an organization established after her own personal experience during childbirth, to advance safe births in underserved communities. A social entrepreneur, civil engineer, and health advocate, Muzalema is removing anxiety from the birth process by rebuilding trust between communities and clinics. She works to ensure that mothers do not compromise their own safety and that of their newborns in under-resourced clinics as well as during home births that may be far from a safe health facility. In this context, Muzalema trains birth attendants to improve the quality of care and safety in both clinic and home births across Zambia. She is a Mandela Washington Fellow, an Obama Leaders: Africa Fellow, an Africa Prize Finalist, and an Ashoka Fellow. She was a winner of the Mandela Washington Fellowship at the University of San Diego, California; a NEPAD Bioentrepreneurs winner in South Africa; a Slush Global Impact Accelerator winner in Finland; and a YHER Africa Accelerator winner, and she has been featured on the BBC. Muzalema is a 2020 Echoing Green Fellow.

### Organization/Fellow Location

Lusaka, Zambia

### Impact Location

Africa

Zambia

### Organization Structure

Hybrid

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