

MATERNITY WORLDWIDE CHRISTMAS 2029 APPEAL 04 November 2019

Emily Watson biography (official from agent)

Emily Watson OBE is an acclaimed stage and screen actress. Recognised by BAFTA and nominated for Academy, Golden Globe, Emmy and Screen Actors Guild Awards, her film credits include: Breaking the Waves, Hilary and Jackie, Angela's Ashes, Gosford Park, Punch Drunk Love, Synecdoche, New York, War Horse, The Book Thief, The Theory of Everything, Testament of Youth, The Proposition, Everest and The Happy Prince. TV credits include: Appropriate Adult, A Song For Jenny, Apple Tree Yard, The Dresser, Genius, King Lear, Little Women. She was Emmy nominated this year for her role in hugely successful HBO/Sky mini-series Chernobyl.

Emily's theatre work includes: Three Sisters, The Lady from the Sea, and The Children's Hour (National Theatre), Uncle Vanya and Twelfth Night (Donmar Warehouse, BAM) and she's worked extensively with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Emily Watson/Maternity Worldwide script: BBC Radio 4 Appeal 2018

Every single day, hundreds of women in sub-Saharan Africa die of causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Good quality healthcare for many of the world's women is unaffordable or inaccessible.

As a mother, I am deeply concerned that in countries like Malawi, Ethiopia and Uganda pregnancy and childbirth are putting women's lives at risk.

Dembe lived in Western Uganda and was expecting her second child. When she went into labour there was no midwife to call on. The nearest hospital was 62 miles away along poor roads and Dembe had no money for transport to get there. After three days of labour both she and her unborn child died. Her grieving husband was left to provide and care for their two-year-old.

Dembe's death would have been preventable here in the UK. Maternity Worldwide works to ensure that mothers don't die in pregnancy and childbirth, and since their Radio 4 appeal ten years ago they have been able to build and equip a health centre in Hoima in the area where Dembe lived in western Uganda. It opened in March 2017. It's staffed by qualified midwives, and Maternity Worldwide has also helped to fund another clinic in the area to offer emergency care to pregnant women. In Ethiopia women have a 1 in 52 chance of losing their life in pregnancy and childbirth. This figure is 100 times higher than it is here in the UK.

Bultu lives in Ethiopia near the border with South Sudan. In pregnancy she was given a free ultrasound scan at a health centre built by Maternity Worldwide and this showed there was no fluid around her baby, so there was a serious risk of infection. Bultu needed an emergency caesarean section, and she delivered a healthy baby.

In Bultu's region Maternity Worldwide has developed four centres where women can receive basic and emergency obstetric care and they have trained community birth attendants to help women who are going through labour in rural areas.

But there are still so many women who don't have these facilities close at hand. Maternity Worldwide needs your support to help save more lives. [2018 DONATION AMOUNT REDACTED] will enable a woman to give birth safely, and at no cost to her, at a maternity centre.

[2018 DONATION DETAILS REDACTED]

Thank you.

Link to Radio 4 Appeal on BBC Sounds:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b0m21x>

NOTES

Maternity Worldwide is a charity saving lives in childbirth in low-income countries by training midwives and skilled birth attendants, improving access to health centres and hospitals, providing communities with maternal and newborn health information and empowering women to become financially independent and decision makers about their own sexual and reproductive health. We have a vision of a world where every woman, wherever she lives, can give birth safely and without fear.

Our mission is to work with communities and our partners to:

- identify and develop appropriate and effective ways to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity
- facilitate communities to access high-quality, skilled maternity care
- support the provision of high-quality skilled care

Maternity Worldwide is a registered charity no. 1111504 and our registered address is Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton BN1 3XG. For further details or if you have any questions, please email info@maternityworldwide.org (this box is monitored regularly throughout the day) or visit our website: www.maternityworldwide.org.