**Maternal Mortality Case Study**

You are a newly hired health consultant for a large non-governmental organization (NGO) and your first assignment is a one-year placement in the capital city of Country X. There has been an ongoing civil war in Country X since December 2013 – tens of thousands have been killed and several million people have been displaced from their homes.

One of the first priorities for your new job is to address the astonishing high maternal mortality rate. A majority of women are without antenatal care and give birth outside of the formal health care system.

1. As you prepare to take over this health post, what types of information and what data would you like to access in order to inform your work? Think about how and from what sources you will go about accessing this information. What are your concerns with regards to accuracy of the data?
2. Maternal mortality has increased since the onset of the civil war. Discuss how the crisis might be impacting pregnant women in this humanitarian context.
3. Outline the maternal health services that you would like to implement in the first six months of your placement. What will be needed in terms of human resources, medical equipment and medications? Do you foresee any barriers to implementing these services and how will you address these?
4. What are the major causes of maternal morality that you are aiming to address? Is there any one of these in particular that you anticipate might be more challenging? If so, how will you handle this?
5. After nine months on the job you have implemented basic Emergency Obstetrical Care (EmOC) services. However, there is little uptake and the services are under-utilized. What are some of the possible reasons why pregnant women may not be accessing services? Think about how you will try to understand the problem. What will you do to improve utilization?