Stillbirths: A Neglected Tragedy

An estimated 2.6 million stillbirths occur every year.

Every day 7000 women experience a stillbirth.

Key causes:
- Pregnancy and childbirth complications
- Lifestyle factors
- Diabetes and hypertension
- Maternal Infections, like syphilis, malaria and HIV
- Preterm birth
- Birth defects
- Half occur in settings of conflict or emergency
- Half occur during labour
- 60% occur in rural areas
- 98% occur in low- and middle-income countries

Most stillbirths are preventable before, during and after pregnancy.

Most stillbirths do not receive a birth or death certificate.

Better data on the number and causes are needed to understand the true burden and prevent future deaths.

Family planning
Good health and nutrition
Quality antenatal care
Quality care during labour and childbirth

World Health Organization