

# Safe motherhood community health volunteers: results and success factors

**3,002**  
SMAG volunteers  
trained by MAMaZ

**2,571**  
SMAG volunteers  
trained by MORE MAMaZ

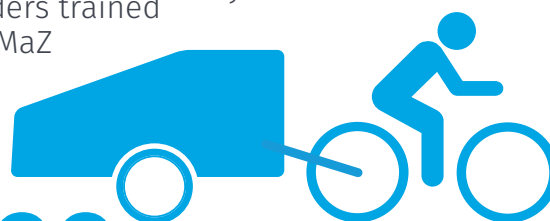
Ideal number of  
SMAGs per NHC: **10-16**

**5,573**  
Total SMAGs trained



**264**  
ETS riders trained  
by MAMaZ

**236**  
ETS riders trained  
by MORE MAMaZ



**500**  
Total ETS riders trained

## Volunteer tools of the trade

### SMAGs

#### Essential

T-shirt  
Bag, notebook and pens

#### Desirable

Gum boots  
Bicycles

### ETS riders

#### Essential

Reflective vest  
Bag, notebook and pens  
Gum boots  
Light / torch  
Rain coat

#### Desirable

Additional bicycle for  
accompanying rider

**6,073**  
Total  
volunteers  
trained

*"We love our village  
and we want everyone  
to know about how to  
save lives." (Chama)*

## Age of volunteers

41 years and  
older: **39%**

26-40 years: **57%**

25 years and  
younger: **4%**

## Volunteer retention

Volunteers trained  
4+ years ago (MAMaZ) **82%**

Volunteers trained  
2 years ago (MORE MAMaZ) **95%**

## Factors contributing to volunteer retention

- Effective participatory and adult-learning centred training approach
- Provision of coaching and mentoring support for a sustained period after training
- Clarity from the start, and constant reinforcement that the work is voluntary
- Inputs that can be scheduled around other work and activities
- Mutual support provided by the large group of volunteers trained in every community
- Quickly seeing the results of their work (e.g. reduction in maternal and newborn deaths)

## Main motivation for volunteering

- 82%** altruism (wishing to help others / save lives)
- 7%** being respected by the community
- 4%** training received
- 7%** other reasons (e.g. religious obligation; coaching and mentoring support provided)

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