

A midwife who is allowed to use the full range of her skills can positively affect maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality rates (ICM, 2013). Recent research documents the potential impact of midwives in preventing and reducing maternal and new-born mortality and stillbirths and reveals that investing in midwives could save millions of lives (Nove et al., 2021).

The ICM (2013) concepts that define the unique role of midwives focus on the following:

- Health promotion and disease prevention strategies that view pregnancy as a normal life event.
- Partnership with families to promote self-care and the health of mothers, new-borns, and families.
- Respect for human dignity, family, and mothers as persons with full human rights, and advocacy for women and the amplification of their voices.
- Cultural sensitivity, including working with family and healthcare providers to overcome those cultural practices that harm women and babies.
- Advocacy for normal physiological labour and birth to enhance best outcomes for mothers and new-borns.

### **Domains of Competence for Midwifery**

These core competencies have been developed to ensure that the public of Saudi Arabia can be confident in the abilities of midwives to provide safe and effective midwifery care. Eight domains of practice have been identified.

1. Professionalism and Ethical Practice
2. Family-Centred Care
3. Evidence-Based Practice and Research
4. Leadership and Management Skills
5. Quality and Safety Management
6. Health Education and Promotion
7. Communication and Information Technology
8. Professional Self-Development

Each domain is described through competency standards and associated performance criteria that define the requirements that are expected and demanded of the registered midwife.