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Birthing kits help save lives in Haiti



About 30 women from the Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo gathered on Saturday morning to pack 1,000 birthing kits for Haitian women.

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About 30 volunteers from the Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo met at the 404 Wing adult recreation centre in Waterloo on Saturday to prepare 1,000 birthing kits to send to Haiti.

One in eight Haitian children dies before the age of five, and the maternal mortality rate in that country is 1,400 deaths for every 100,000. Birthing kits can help to save three lives — that of the mother, the baby and the birthing attendant.

The kits contain items for a more hygienic birth, including soap, latex gloves, plastic sheeting, a razor blade to cut the umbilical cord and string to tie it off.

This is the second batch of birthing kits provided by the K-W Zonta Club, an organization of professional women working to advance the status of women.

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