

NOT YET RAIN

ABOUT THE FILM

“Thunder is not yet rain.”
– African proverb

Not Yet Rain, a Lisa Russell film produced in association with Ipas, explores abortion in Ethiopia through the voices of women who have faced the challenge of abortion. Through their stories, we see the important role that safe abortion care plays in the overall health of women and their families.

Despite the fact that unsafe abortion claims the lives of nearly 67,000 women and injures millions more each year, the religious and political controversy surrounding abortion has kept this global public health problem relatively hidden. In an effort to shine the spotlight on this tragic reality, Ipas produced a short documentary to examine the issue from both a public health and a woman’s perspective.

In 2006 Ethiopia enacted a new abortion law that greatly increased access to safe abortion care for women in that country. Unsafe abortion is one of the leading causes of death among women of reproductive age, causing approximately 32 percent of all maternal deaths, and the new law has marked a great step toward reproductive freedom in Ethiopia. Ipas, working with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, has trained and equipped health-care providers to ensure access to safe abortion care, including family planning services. However, **Not Yet Rain** shows that much more still needs to be done – not just in Ethiopia, but around the world.



ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

LISA RUSSELL

Lisa Russell is an independent filmmaker whose background in humanitarian assistance and international development inspired her to produce films about health and well-being in our global society. After pursuing her Master's in public health in international health at Boston University, Lisa turned her lens on pressing global health topics such as obstetric and traumatic fistula in Niger and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; food insecurity and HIV/AIDS in Malawi; and the impact of war and disaster on young people in Liberia, Lebanon, Colombia and New Orleans.

Lisa's short film "Love, Labor, Loss," released in 2004, has become a widely used advocacy tool to educate audiences on obstetric fistula. In 2005, Lisa furthered her outreach with the film by collaborating with Grammy-nominated artist Zap Mama to create "The WOMAN Tour" – a three-week nationwide initiative of film screenings and musical performances to increase awareness of global women's health.

In 2007-2008, Lisa was chosen as one of 25 filmmakers for the National Black Programming Consortium's New Media Institute, was a two-time producer for WGBH's Lab Open Call and received grants from both the New York State Council on the Arts and the Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media. Currently residing in Brooklyn, N.Y., she is a teaching artist with Urban Word NYC, where she leads a workshop blending film screenings and open mics for young spoken word artists to initiate awareness and dialogue about social issues affecting today's youth.