

## **Urban Midwives**

**By Greta Rico**

Urban Midwives portrays the almost unknown work of midwives working in one of the largest cities in Latin America, Mexico City. In the Metropolitan Area, a place where more than 20 million people live, there is only one midwifery house and approximately 8 midwives who attend home births.

According to the 2012 National Health and Nutrition Survey, Mexico ranks fourth worldwide in births by caesarean section without medical indication. This data almost triples what is recommended by the World Health Organization. In the midst of an epidemic of unnecessary caesarean sections that is currently occurring in the country, Urban Midwives document through the photograph that the midwifery model represents an alternative for women's access to health by giving them attention before, during and after their births, as well as helping to reduce the rates of obstetric violence that Mexican women constantly live in hospitals.

In Mexico, being born or not in a hospital is a matter of status. The misinformation and discrimination faced by women in clinics creates the perfect environment for them to go with fear about what might happen to them or their babies. Urban Midwives is the result of almost three years of documentary work and makes visible that midwifery houses are spaces of resistance, spaces won by midwives for the benefit of women, and makes it clear that giving birth at home is a political act.