

NEWBORN SURVIVAL PROJECT: QUALITY AND INNOVATION FOR AN INCREASED ACCESS TO NEONATAL CARE IN ETHIOPIA

Doctors with Africa CUAMM has been working in **Ethiopia** since 1980 aiming to integrate maternal and child healthcare interventions with measures to prevent NCDs, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and hepatitis B. CUAMM operates in South West Shewa Zone, South Omo Zone, Somali Region along with supporting refugees and host population in Gambella region. **Neonatal mortality** in Ethiopia accounts to 33 per 1,000 live births (EDHS, 2019) and annually, 95,000 newborns die before their first month of life due to several health problems. CUAMM in partnership with Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), Ethiopian Catholic Church - Social and Development Commission (ECCSDCO) and Oromia Regional Health Bureau, South West Shoa Zone Health (SWSZHD), have implemented a three- year project since June 2018, named “**Newborn Survival Project: quality and innovation for an increased access to neonatal care in Ethiopia**”, supported by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. Moreover, the project has been implemented with the direct engagement of **technical partners** namely: Ethiopian Paediatric Society – EPS responsible for the training and supervisions, Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù (OPBG), Informatics without Borders (Informatici senza Frontiere - ISF) and Università degli Studi di Tor Vergata – Dipartimento Pediatrico Universitario-Ospedaliero (DPUO TV). The objective of the project is **to improve the quality and accessibility of Neonatal Intensive Care Unit services (NICUs) in three hospitals**: St Paul Hospital Millennium Medical College in Addis Ababa, St. Luke Catholic Hospital and College of Nursing and Midwifery in Wolisso, and Tulu Bolo General Hospital, by strengthening the **capacity building** of skilled staff for NICUs and **increasing the availability of standards and methodologies for the evaluation of neonatal care services**. The project then expands to **15 kebele in 5 different woredas**, actively involving the communities in **awareness raising activities** on good practices of newborn care particularly.



PROJECT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



Improve clinical-organizational quality and use of the NICU services in the 3 selected hospitals



Increase the availability of quality health and technical personnel for the NICU of the 3 hospitals



Improve the availability of standard and evaluation tools for the quality of the neonatal care

LESSONS LEARNED

MOTHERS AND NEWBORN ARE AT THE CENTRE OF CARE.

ANC VISITS AND INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERIES ARE THE FIRST STEP TO REDUCE NEONATAL MORTALITY.

ENCOURAGING **BREASTFEEDING AND CORRECT NEWBORN PRACTICES** GREATLY IMPROVE NEWBORN HEALTH.

NICU HEALTHCARE WORKERS' **SKILLS AND MOTIVATION** NEED TO BE SUPPORTED.

DATA QUALITY IS THE CORNERSTONE FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS WITH PREGNANT AND LACTATING WOMEN IS THE BEST WAY TO IMPROVE NEONATAL CARE.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS*

CONTRIBUTED TO THE **REDUCTION IN NEONATAL MORTALITY** IN THE 3 NICU

-2.8% ST PAUL HOSPITAL,
-6.6% ST LUKE HOSPITAL,
-2.2% TULU BOLO HOSPITAL

14,691 SICK NEWBORNS ADMITTED IN THE NICU OF THE 3 HOSPITALS

53 NURSES AND 56 BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS TRAINED

26 HEALTH EXTENSION WORKERS (HEWS) AND 575 WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ARMY TRAINED FROM 15 KEBELE

158 COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND 51,652 WOMEN SENSITIZED ON NEWBORN CARE

3 NICU MANUALS AND 1 NICU BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANUAL PRODUCED

1 DIGITALIZED INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR PATHOLOGICAL INFANT DEVELOPED

CONSTRUCTION OF **NICU BUILDING** IN ST LUKE AND **REHABILITATION** OF TULU BOLO NICU

CONTINUOUS **PROVISION OF NICU EQUIPMENT AND DRUGS** IN THE 3 HOSPITALS

* Data Jun 2018-Jul 2021

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