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Maternal and Child
Survival Program



Photo: Kate Holt/ Jhpiego



NEWBORN HEALTH

Despite global efforts to develop and promote high-impact interventions for newborn health, nearly three million infants die each year within the first month of life, with more than three-quarters of these deaths occurring in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Improvements in the prevention of newborn death have lagged behind those for maternal and child health.

USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) harnesses global and country level resources to reduce preventable newborn deaths. This includes advocacy and technical support to implement key interventions that address the major causes of newborn death—
intrapartum complications, newborn infections, and complications of preterm birth.

MCSP focuses on providing appropriate and timely essential newborn care immediately after birth and thereafter, including:

- Newborn resuscitation to manage asphyxia;
- Kangaroo Mother Care for premature and low birth weight newborns; and
- Newborn infection prevention and management.

KEY FACTS

- Newborn deaths contribute to 44% of deaths in children under five years of age (WHO)
- Three-quarters of all newborn deaths occur in the first week of life with nearly 50% occurring during the first 24 hours (WHO)
- Complications from preterm birth constitute the leading cause of death for children under five (WHO)

To advance these critical newborn health interventions, MCSP emphasizes integration with maternal care, while strengthening health services and the household-to-hospital continuum of care.

MCSP collaborates and works with partners through global initiatives such as: Saving Newborn Lives; Survive & Thrive Global Development Alliance; UN Commission on Lifesaving Commodities; Every Newborn Action Plan; and others to ensure newborn health remains on global and national agendas. Country partnerships include governments, local partners, and communities where MCSP supports policy strengthening and scale-up of evidence-based newborn interventions.



Photo: A mother sits holding her newborn at a maternity clinic in Antananarivo, Madagascar (Kate Holt/MCSP)

These collective efforts contribute towards strengthening skills and improving the quality of newborn health services through Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) for newborn resuscitation; Essential Care for Every Baby (ECEB); and Essential Care for the Small Baby (ECSB), and appropriate management of newborn infections.

ABOUT MCSP

The Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) is a global, USAID Cooperative Agreement to introduce and support high-impact health interventions with a focus on 24 high-priority countries with the ultimate goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths within a generation. The Program is focused on ensuring that all women, newborns and children most in need have equitable access to quality health care services to save lives.

MCSP supports programming in maternal, newborn and child health, immunization, family planning and reproductive health, nutrition, health systems strengthening, water/sanitation/hygiene, malaria, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and pediatric HIV care and treatment.

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