

Newborn Health in Humanitarian Settings: A Study to Evaluate the Feasibility of Implementing the *Newborn Health in Humanitarian Settings: Field Guide* to Improve Newborn Care Practices among Displaced Populations in South Sudan

Background

Pregnant and newly delivered women and their newborns are a particularly vulnerable group in conflict- and disaster-affected settings. The *Newborn Health in Humanitarian Settings: Field Guide* is the result of inter-agency collaboration between IMC, MSF, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, CDC, WRC, and WVI. The *Field Guide* is a compilation and summary of existing WHO standards of care for newborn health, with additional guidance on how to provide newborn services in the context of a humanitarian setting.

The *Field Guide* prioritizes the most critical health services and supplies to prevent and manage the three main causes of newborn death - prematurity, severe infections and intrapartum-related complications. Additionally, tools are included for designing, managing, and monitoring and evaluating newborn health services in humanitarian settings.



Study Aims and Design

To understand the feasibility of implementing the *Field Guide*, a package of newborn interventions is being piloted in South Sudan. The newborn care services will be implemented by IMC at the community and facility levels in POC sites in Juba and Malakal and in refugee camps in Maban. The study aims to:

1. **Explore qualitative facilitators and barriers** that influence the implementation of newborn care services in the community and facility
2. **Assess health worker attitudes towards newborn service delivery**
3. **Determine the association between** the implementation of a package of newborn care interventions and changes in newborn care practices and service coverage.

A concurrent, mixed methods study design utilizing qualitative and quantitative methods will be employed. IMC will implement the package of interventions by:

- Training IMC program staff on the programmatic tools in the *Field Guide*
- Training IMC community and facility health workers on the package of interventions
- Distributing newborn medical supply kits at community, primary care, and hospital levels

Findings from this study will be used to improve health service delivery for women and their newborns, training of health workforce, and collection and use of newborn health information. In addition, findings will be used to finalize the *Field Guide* in 2017 prior to global dissemination and use.

Timeline

- Baseline data collected: March – May 2016
- Intervention implementation: June – November 2016
- Endline data collected: October – November 2016