



KANGAROO MOTHER CARE MALAWI

IMPROVING UPTAKE USING CUSTOMIZED WRAP



SITUATION IN MALAWI

The Government of Malawi has prioritized **Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC)**, a WHO recommended intervention for the routine care of preterm or low-birth-weight newborns weighing less than 2000 grams or less at birth, to increase access to quality health services for mothers and children.

Despite the efforts, mothers across Malawi report challenges with continuous skin-to-skin contact, including the difficulty of holding a baby properly and comfortably using traditional chitenje as wraps.

To improve KMC practices, Laerdal Global Health (LGH) developed an ergonomic baby carrier (the CarePlus wrap) that can be produced locally at low cost.

babies are born too soon

neonatal deaths for every 1,000 live births

Under 5 mortality during neonatal period

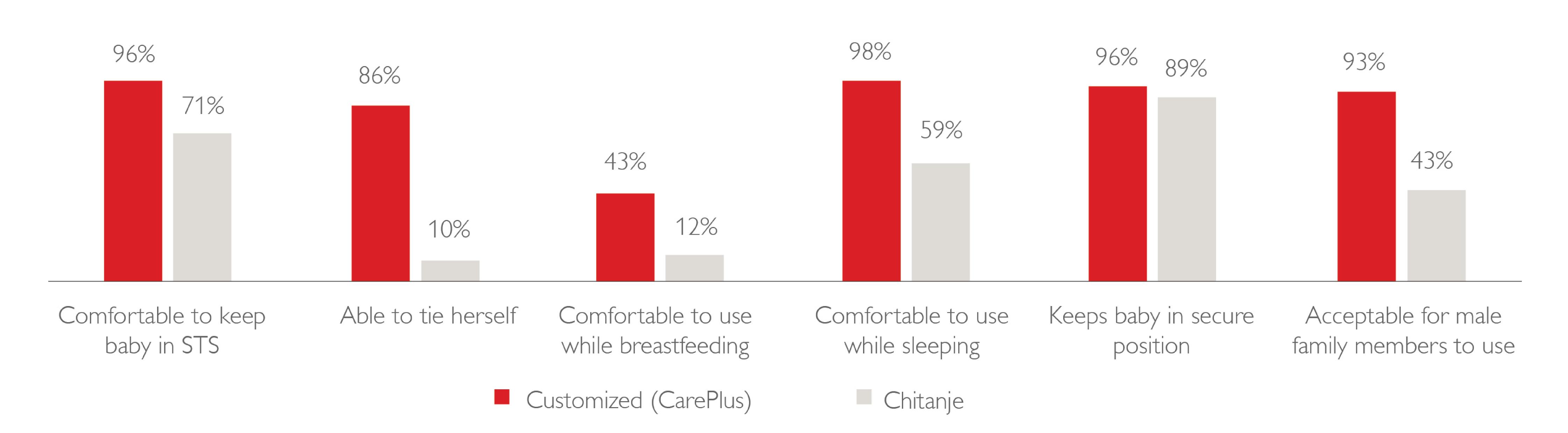
STUDY OVERVIEW

In partnership with the **Ministry of Health**, Save the Children implemented an operations research study to determine whether the customized CarePlus wrap improves KMC practice and whether its uptake is feasible across Malawi.

OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the acceptability and effectiveness of introducing a custom KMC wrap to improve adherence to skin-to-skin practices within selected hospitals with established KMC programs in Malawi; to explore the feasibility of locally producing the customized CarePlus wrapper by training and equipping existing hospital-based tailors.

STUDY FINDINGS

Acceptability of wrap in facility-based KMC by type of wrapper received



THE WAY FORWARD

In partnership with Malawi Ministry of Health and Laerdal Global Health, Save the Children seeks to build upon the work, achievements and lessons learned from the pilot study.

We have proposed expanding access to the CarePlus Wrap in Malawi by testing approaches for sustainable local production to contribute to reducing newborn mortality and improving health outcomes among preterm babies.





