

# Birth Kit Working Group



## Newsletter

July 2010

The aim of this newsletter is to keep the group informed of ongoing work in the area of birth kits and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the work programmes that interest them.

### Organising group

Bilal Avan, Impact  
Ann Blanc, MHTF  
Wendy Graham, Impact  
Vanora Hundley, Impact  
Joy Lawn, SNL  
Claudia Morrissey, SNL  
Steve Wall, SNL

### Did you know?

The first policy brief *Clean birth kits - potential to deliver?* has now been published. The brief summarises the current state of knowledge on clean birth practices and the potential role for clean birth kits in supporting these preventive practices and for saving lives. It draws on several recent scientific reviews and a Technical Workshop held in London on March 25-26th 2010

You can download the brief at the Healthy Newborn Network:

[www.healthynewbornnetwork.org](http://www.healthynewbornnetwork.org)



## Ongoing programme of work

### Programme survey

The survey aims to gather evidence on implementation issues as they relate to clean birth kits, with particular attention on incentives and disincentives for facility births. The survey tool was piloted in June and is currently undergoing modifications in preparation for the survey proper in August.

**Contact:** Homaira Hanif  
[hhanif@jhsph.edu](mailto:hhanif@jhsph.edu)

### Community based data analysis

This group brings together researchers who may have unpublished data relating to birth kits. The aim is to identify implementation issues as they relate to clean birth kits, with particular attention on incentives and disincentives for facility birth. This work is still at an early stage.

**Contact:** Hannah Blencowe  
[hblencowe@gmail.com](mailto:hblencowe@gmail.com)

### Decision guide

This working group is developing a tool to assist in the planning of overall strategies relating to the use of clean birth kits. The tool is in the early stages of development but the intention is to present a prototype for discussion at the Global Maternal Health Conference at the end of August.

**Contact:** Vanora Hundley  
[v.hundley@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:v.hundley@abdn.ac.uk)

### Country case-studies

This group also aims to identify implementation issues as they relate to clean birth kits. The exact nature of this work is not yet decided and will be influenced by the findings of the programme survey. The work is likely to commence towards the end of the year.

**Contact:** Homaira Hanif  
[hhanif@jhsph.edu](mailto:hhanif@jhsph.edu)

### Add-on commodities

This group has conducted a systematic review to assess the effects of potential add-on commodities for a clean birth kit on maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. Following discussion at the workshop in Washington DC, the group is extending the review to include evidence other than RCTs.

**Contact:** Bilal Avan  
[bilal.avan@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:bilal.avan@abdn.ac.uk)

### Community of practice

This group aims to develop an actively engaged network of individuals working with clean birth kits, with particular emphasis on those working in the field. A database of contacts has been established and circulated to the BK Working group for comment. Discussions are ongoing to identify how best to facilitate sharing of information.

**Contact:** Vanora Hundley  
[v.hundley@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:v.hundley@abdn.ac.uk)

### Meetings in 2010

March 25-26 2010,  
London  
*Taking stock of the evidence*

June 8 2010,  
Washington DC  
*Panel session at Women Deliver Conference*

June 10-11 2010,  
Washington DC  
*CBK Implementation Experiences*

August 30 – September 1 2010,  
New Delhi  
*Parallel session at GMHC on the decision guide*

12-14 November, 2010  
New Delhi  
*PMNCH Governance Forum*

December [TBC]  
Washington DC  
*BK working group closure meeting*

Please see MHTF web site for links to the presentations and publications.  
[www.maternalhealthtaskforce.org](http://www.maternalhealthtaskforce.org)

Information is also available from the Healthy Newborn Network:  
[www.healthynewbornnetwork.org](http://www.healthynewbornnetwork.org)  
&  
from Impact  
[www.impact-international.org](http://www.impact-international.org)

## Ongoing programme of work (cont.)

### Policy brief 2: Implementation

The second policy brief will bring together evidence on implementation issues as they relate to clean birth kits. It will draw on the findings of the systematic review, the programme survey, community based data analysis, and country case-studies. The intention is to have the policy brief ready for sharing at the PMNCH Governance event in November.

**Contact:** Vanora Hundley  
[v.hundley@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:v.hundley@abdn.ac.uk)

### Research Prioritisation

The aim of this group is to identify evidence gaps and to set research priorities regarding clean birth kits. The group plans to use questions arising from the reviews and survey to establish a questionnaire using CHNRI methodology. This will be circulated to a sample of key informants in September / October. The end product is likely to be a paper for publication.

**Contact:** Hannah Blencowe  
[hblencowe@gmail.com](mailto:hblencowe@gmail.com)

### Conference sessions

We have been given a 90 minute parallel session at the GMHC conference. The proposal is to get participants' input to the decision guide. The session will also highlight other areas such as the Community of Practice and the Research Prioritisation.

It is hoped that the group will also have a session at the PMNCH Governance event.

**Contact:** Vanora Hundley  
[v.hundley@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:v.hundley@abdn.ac.uk)

**The Birth Kit Working Group is open to all interested individuals. We welcome inputs and ongoing ownership.**

**Please see below for details of how to join us.**

## Who are the members of the BK Working group?

### Current members of the working group include:

Priya Agrawal (Harvard School of Public Health), Haris Ahmed (Pathfinder), Bilal Avan (Impact), Ann Blanc (MHTF), Hannah Blencowe (LSHTM), Thomas Burke (Harvard Medical School), Oona Campbell (LSHTM), Mickey Chopra (UNICEF), Patricia Coffey (PATH), Anthony Costello (ICH/UCL), Simon Cousens (LSHTM), Jo Cox (MM Campaign), Susan Crane (ICH/UCL), Luc de Bernis (UNFPA), Luis Andres de Francisco Serpa (WHO), France Donnay (Gates Foundation), Mark Dybul (Georgetown University), Melody Eckardt (Harvard Medical School), Helga Fogstad (Norad), Lynn Freedman (AMDD), Wendy Graham (Impact), Homaira Hanif (JHU), Elizabeth Hoff (Millenium Foundation), Vanora Hundley (Impact), Jessica Hulse (SNL), Lily Kak (USAID), Asma Khalid (MSI), Louise Kleberg (Millenium Foundation), Joy Lawn (SNL), Helena Lindborg (DFID), Elizabeth Leahy Madsen (MHTF), Nahed Matta (USAID), Zoe Matthews (University of Southampton); Peter McDermott (CIFF), Claudia Morrisey (SNL), Luke Mullany (JHU), Anne Pfitzer (SNL), Melanie Ridge (ICH/UCL), Craig Rubens (GAPPS), Lale Say (WHO), Unni Silkoset (Norad), Ann Starrs (FCI), Catherine Taylor (PATH), Steve Wall (SNL), Eva Weissman (Futures Institute), Peter Winch (JHU).

### Interested in joining us?

This is an open community of practice and the group would be delighted to hear from interested people who would like to join us. Please contact: Vanora Hundley [v.hundley@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:v.hundley@abdn.ac.uk)



*"The estimated cost of CBKs is between \$0.17 and \$0.73 per birth, depending on whether made locally or imported. If CBKs are made locally this amounts to a cost of around \$215 per life saved."*



Maternal Health Task Force



Save the Children