Every day. In times of crisis. For our future.

Postnatal Home Visits

Effective in Field Trials But What About in the Real World?
Outline

1. Roots of postnatal home visits
2. Performance of home visit programs
3. Global review of performance
4. Preliminary conclusions
5. Moving forward
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Roots
WHO/UNICEF JOINT STATEMENT

Home visits for the newborn child: a strategy to improve survival
Take-home message #1

• Early field trials in Gadchiroli demonstrated that postnatal home visits with specific content can save newborn lives.
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Performance of PNHV programs

Methodological Rigor

Real-World Feasibility
Performance

How closely to follow?
Take-home message #2

- Coverage of postnatal home visits has been low in most countries when implemented at scale through government health services.
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Joint Statement

Postnatal home visits on:
• Day 1
• Day 3
• Day 7 (if possible)

Adapted model

• Standardized pre-discharge postnatal care for facility deliveries
• Postnatal home visit within 48 hours if possible, prioritize home deliveries
• Facility-based postnatal contact on day 7
Global Team

- SNL/Save the Children
- WHO
- UNICEF
- USAID
- Maternal and Child Survival Program
Factors that affect performance

Requirements for effective performance
Review Schedule

Phase 1
• 11 countries screened, 7 selected for Phase 2.

Phase 2
• Comprehensive review of experiences implementing home visits
Countries included in global review

Bangladesh
Ethiopia
India
Indonesia
Malawi
Nepal
Sri Lanka
Take-home message #3

- We are conducting a global review of countries’ experience with PNHV programming in order to identify requirements for effective coverage.
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Take-home message #4

Preliminary conclusions:

• Unrealistic to expect that implementation models from field trials could be effectively replicated by governments at scale.

• Countries should be encouraged to develop locally appropriate strategies to reduce newborn mortality (adapting guidance in the Joint Statement as necessary).
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Review Schedule

Phase 3

• Technical working group to develop operational guidance
Take-home message #5

The team will develop operational guidance to enable countries to make more effective and efficient use of postnatal home visits as part of postnatal programming.
THANK YOU