

Kangaroo Mother Care Implementation Research for Accelerating Scale-Up

Background /Rationale

The Every Newborn Action Plan endorsed and launched by the World Health Assembly in May 2014 includes the goal of scaling up KMC, to 50% of babies weighing less than 2000 grams by 2020 and to 75% of these babies by 2025. However, the current global coverage of this intervention is <1%. This implementation research initiative aims to understand how to scale up KMC in health facilities based on WHO recommendations.

Study Questions & Design

Effective approaches to achieve high population coverage ($\geq 80\%$) of quality KMC in health facilities for low-birth-weight newborns below 2000 grams can be identified through an iterative approach, ensuring that KMC is provided to all eligible infants and increasing the likelihood of continued KMC post-discharge. This multi-site study in two countries, Ethiopia and India, includes: formative research to identify barriers and design scalable models to deliver KMC across the facility-community continuum; implementation of these models in routine care settings; and evaluation of these models leading to national or state-level scale-up. All <2000g birth weight babies in a total population of 5 million people will be targeted and followed up during the study period.

Programmatic Implications

The governments of Ethiopia and India are interested in making KMC available to all newborns of birth weight below 2000g. The study will identify effective models of KMC implementation that can be applied at scale and sustained within available resources; it will be implemented as an integral aspect of maternal newborn and child health and will be linked to other effective pre-existing interventions and programmes within the existing health system. The findings accrued from this implementation study will also have implications for additional actions to strengthen the provision of essential newborn care.

Locations & Collaborators

Ethiopia	Mekelle University site: Tigray (Dr Araya Abrha Medhanyie)
	Emory University, Atlanta site: Amhara (Dr John Cranmer, Dr Abebe Gebremariam Gobeza yehu)
	Addis Ababa University site: Oromia (Dr Damen Haile Mariam Gebre Kiros)
	Harvard University site: Oromia (Dr Grace Chan)
	Hawassa University site: SNNPR (Dr Henok Tadele Dangiso)
India	Society for Applied Study site: (Dr Sarmila Mazumder) Community Empowerment Lab site: Uttar Pradesh (Dr Vishwajeet Kumar)
	St John's Medical College & Research Institute site: Karnataka (Dr Prem Mony)

Data Collection

July 2017 – March 2019. Completed.

Funders Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Web

For further information, please contact:

Rajiv B AHL
bahlr@who.int

Anayda PORTELA
portelaa@who.int