

Neonatal Health: Identifying Priority Questions and Gaps

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This study is conducted in collaboration
with Save the Children

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Overview

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- ❑ Research Goal
- ❑ Question selection
- ❑ Methods
 - Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative (CHNRI)
 - Setting the stage for the research
 - Criteria for evaluation of questions
- ❑ What you can do to help?

Disclaimer

- ❑ This study is being conducted in collaboration with Save the Children-Ribka Amsalu
- ❑ Ribka was unable to be here today
- ❑ Diane is presenting on behalf of Ribka
- ❑ Answers to some questions may have to be deferred to Ribka

- ❑ Which of you has expertise on neonatal health?
- ❑ Which of you has field staff with expertise on neonatal health?

Research Goal

- ❑ Build the evidence base to improve newborn survival and prevent/decrease stillbirth in humanitarian settings

Question selection

- ❑ Saving Newborn Lives Program (SNL) at Save the Children (STC)
 - Includes multiple partners and experts globally
 - Is engaged in the development of the evidence base to improve newborn survival and prevent/decrease stillbirth
- ❑ SNL developed a list of questions deemed critical to improving the evidence base of research
- ❑ STC selected those that could potentially be done in a humanitarian context and that are most likely relevant to humanitarian settings
- ❑ 35 questions selected

Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative (CHNRI)

- ❑ Systematic method for setting priorities in health research investments
- ❑ Multiple step process including the following
 - Specify context
 - Discuss and choose criteria
 - Select questions and apply criteria to the questions
- ❑ Flexible process enables prioritization at any level: institutional, regional, national, international or global
- ❑ Used in Neonatal Health, RH Research Workshop, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Humanitarian Emergencies

Setting the stage for the research

- ❑ The space will be complex humanitarian emergencies
- ❑ The time will be interval from now to year 2020
- ❑ The population disease burden of interest will be all mortality and disability due neonatal causes among IDPs, refugees, and communities affected by humanitarian crisis in low and middle income countries.

Setting the stage for the research (Cont'd)

- Our task could also be defined as...
'defining epidemiological measurement and research *priorities in health research investments in complex humanitarian emergencies that we believe would assist the achievement of reduction in the number of newborn deaths*
- Try to think **beyond the endpoints** of research questions and to keep in mind the broader scope and relevance of proposed research questions.

Criteria for evaluation of questions

- ❑ 4 criteria selected
- ❑ 3 components to criteria
- ❑ Using criteria
 - For each question answer **YES** or **NO** to the best of your knowledge
 - If you understand the question well and possess knowledge to answer it, but the answer isn't a clear YES or NO you will enter "**NO or YES**"
 - If you do not have enough knowledge or information to answer some questions. Rather than guessing, answer **DON'T KNOW**

Criterion 1: Answerability

- Definition: Likelihood that research would lead to new knowledge in an ethical way
 - 1. Would you say the research question can be well framed and endpoints can be well defined?
 - 2. Would you say that local and national research capacity already exists to answer the research question in many different contexts?
 - 3. Do you think that a study needed to answer the proposed research question would obtain ethical approval without major concerns?

Criterion 2: Feasibility

- Definition: Likelihood that research can be conducted cost-efficiently and lead to generalizable new knowledge
 - 1. Would you say that well designed studies of moderate scale and sample size would have enough power to provide replicable answer to proposed research question?
 - 2. Would you say that ongoing programs, resources and research capacities could be amended or expanded to undertake proposed research or uptake the measurement technique cost-efficiently?
 - 3. Would you say that the answer to proposed research question would be generalizable across many (or most) different contexts?

Criterion 3: Relevance

- Definition: Likelihood that research would address important condition and critical gap in knowledge and could be readily translated to inform policies and programmes
 - 1. Is the condition being assessed a high burden condition?
 - 2. Is the proposed research addressing a critical gap in knowledge?
 - 3. Would you say that the results of proposed research could be readily translated/used in health information systems, to improve service delivery, to inform policies and programmes?

Criterion 4: Equity

- ❑ Definition: Likelihood that the proposed epidemiological research would have positive impact on equity and local ownership
 - 1. In given context, would you say that the present distribution of disease burden primarily addressed by the proposed research affects IDPs, refugees, and communities affected by humanitarian crisis?
 - 2. Would the proposed research and its results be owned by local actors (e.g. district managers, health workers, communities)?
 - 3. Would you say that the proposed research has the overall potential to improve equity in disease burden distribution in the longer term (e.g. by 2020)?

How can you help?

- ❑ Which of you has expertise on neonatal health?
- ❑ Please fill out the survey!
- ❑ How?
- ❑ With link/ on paper/ or via email
- ❑ Which of you is willing to send this to your field staff with expertise on neonatal health?
- ❑ Please sign up and give me an email. I will email you the survey/link to send to the field staff.
- ❑ **Apologies the survey does take time to complete**

Additional information

- ❑ **Information available on request**
 - Saving Newborn Lives
 - CHNRI Methodology (references)
 - Full CD from Setting Priority RH Research in Crisis Workshop

- ❑ **Provided at the information bazaar**
 - Setting Priority RH Research in Crisis Workshop Proceedings

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