

EVIDENCE press

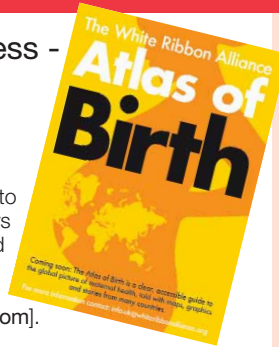
sharing the evidence on **maternal health strategies**

issue 02:09

WELCOME to the 2nd edition of EVIDENCE press - a selection of news & resources from Immpact.

news

- **Birth Atlas** - The White Ribbon Alliance, Immpact & GHP3 are close to completing an Atlas of Birth as a powerful graphic tool for global leaders and stakeholders in maternal and neonatal health. Based on data and estimates from around the globe each map focuses on a central aspect of the global burden of maternal mortality. The process has produced advocacy material including a viral film 'Birth and Death' [www.youtube.com]. The Atlas will be released early next year.
- **Quality Facility Births** - As part of the wider program of work, a literature review to identify lessons learnt and current work relevant to the content and use of birth delivery kits in developing countries is close to completion. This will ultimately feed into a large scale field trial in Tanzania and India to evaluate the efficacy and cost effectiveness of facility based delivery kits in reducing maternal & newborn complications.
- **MacArthur Foundation** - Funded by an initial grant from the MacArthur foundation, a workshop was held in Ahmadabad, India to build consensus and design a multi-faceted intervention package for infection control in health facilities related to labour and delivery. A subsequent grant has been awarded to implement and evaluate the intervention.



evidence markers

Recent Immpact publications

On financial barriers to accessing maternal health care:

Witter, S et al. (2009) **Something old or something new? Social health insurance in Ghana.** *BMC International Health & Human Rights*

Witter, S. (2009) **Service & population based exemptions: Are these the way forward for equity and efficiency in low-income countries.** *Innovations in Health Systems Finance in Developing & Transitional Economies*

McNamee et al (2009) **Barriers in accessing maternal health care: evidence from low and middle-income countries.** *Expert Rev. Pharmacoeconomics Outcomes Res.*

On measurement of maternal mortality:
Byass, P. et al (2009) **Assessing the repeatability of verbal autopsy for determining cause of death.** *Population Health Metrics*

Hill, K. et al (2009) **Estimating pregnancy-related mortality using census data: Experience in Latin America.** *Bull WHO*

Hussein, J. et al (2009) **Confidential inquiries into maternal deaths: Modifications and adaptations in Ghana and Indonesia.** *Int J Gynecol Obstet.*

Qomariyah, S.N. et al (2009) **A practical approach to identifying maternal deaths missed from routine hospital reports: lessons from Indonesia.** *Global Health Action*

Ronsmans, C. et al (2009) **Estimation of population-based incidence of pregnancy-related illness and mortality (PRIAM) in two districts in West Java, Indonesia.** *BJOG*

On skilled attendance at delivery:
Ronsmans, C. et al (2009) **Professional assistance during birth and maternal mortality in two Indonesian districts.** *Bull WHO*

On quality of care:
Graham, W.J. (2009) **Criterion based clinical audit.** *Best Practice & Research Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology*

Van den Broek, N.R. et al. (2009) **Quality of care for maternal and newborn health: the neglected agenda.** *BJOG*

tools & resources



- **Sharing the Evidence** - Immpact has recently released a new Resource CD. Over 100 documents can be searched by title, lead author(s), year, document type, countries & themes and topics. This valuable resource represents the breadth of Immpact's activities & evidence as well as the key issues relevant to maternal health today. Email us at info@immpact-international.org to receive your free copy.
- **Immpact data repository** - Researchers & students can now take advantage of Immpact data for secondary analysis. Email data.coordinator@abdn.ac.uk for more information.

- **The Collaborative on Quality Care in Pregnancy & Childbirth** - Immpact & several other institutions have facilitated the setting up of a new community of practice which aims to improve quality of care for pregnancy and childbirth in developing countries. Visit www.qccpcollab.org for more information on networking opportunities.

knowledge exchange

Immpact has responded to an increasing level of demand for sharing its research findings with a wide variety of audiences.

- **Café Scientifique** - Several Immpact colleagues took part in a public engagement event organised by the University of Aberdeen in June. The discussion centred on the influence of science on childbirth in Aberdeen and the developing world today and in the recent past.
- **BBC Politics Show Scotland** - Immpact's Dr Julia Hussein contributed a sound bite about progress in meeting MDG5 to a BBC Scotland topical news program in August.
- **G8 Talking Points** - Prepared with G8 and G20 events in mind these short summaries highlight the progress made in reducing maternal mortality in several developed nations & indicate lessons for developing countries.

team news

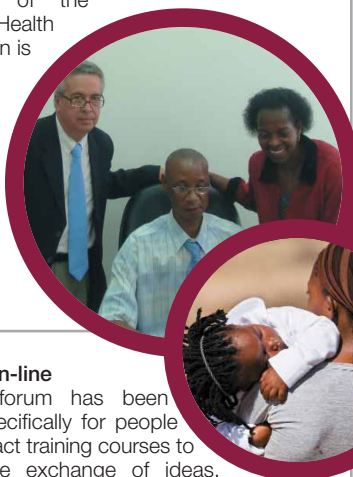
- **Professor Wendy Graham @ DFID** - Immpact's Principal Investigator is among 15 special advisers seconded by their host institutions to the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to provide academic and scientific input to help shape future development policies.
- **Immpact welcomes two new team members** - Dr Bilal Avan joins us from Oxford University as a Lecturer in Maternal, Neonatal & Child Health Epidemiology. Mr Leighton Walker has joined us as a research assistant from the Centre for Academic Primary Care at the University of Aberdeen and will be returning to his medical studies next year.

Ipact assist Ministry of Health in Angola

Ipact has been working with the Ministry of Health of Angola on a UK Department for International Development funded project together with management partners, Oxford Policy Management, to provide technical support to the office for Studies, Planning and Statistics. Following years of war the Government of Angola has been putting all its efforts into restoring the health care infrastructure of the country.

Ipact is assisting the Ministry of Health in the identification of gaps in the provision of services at central, provincial and district levels and contributes to improvements in the provincial planning and budgeting process.

Since the start of the project, a revised tool for planning and budgeting has been produced and the strengthening of the Ministry of Health capacity to plan is in progress. The ultimate goal will be to reduce the uneven distribution and inequity in the provision of health care services.



Ipact forum on-line

An internet forum has been developed specifically for people who attend Ipact training courses to encourage the exchange of ideas, views and news. Krystyna Makowiecka, who leads the Ipact training, will moderate the forum and is optimistic that course participants will find it a useful resource for underpinning the training and for preventing duplication of effort between participating countries.

Consultancy Opportunities

We frequently have need of consultants for short and long term consultancies. To register your CV with Ipact please email:
Wendy Collie w.collie@abdn.ac.uk

Ipact, University of Aberdeen
Health Sciences Building, Foresterhill
Aberdeen AB25 2ZD
Scotland, United Kingdom

T +44 (0) 1224 559736 F +44 (0) 1224 555704
E info@ipact-int.com www.ipact-int.com

Welcome to the latest edition of Ipact News

Ipact is now in its third year of operations and has built up a diverse portfolio of work throughout Asia and Africa. Demand for our involvement in national initiatives is high, especially in our core strength of measurement in maternal health. With increasing attention paid to results based performance in development programmes today, effective demonstration of impact and progress has become a crucial deliverable, to which we in Ipact can significantly contribute.

Dr Julia Hussein Scientific Director, Ipact

Training gets UNFPA backing

UNFPA have been principal funders behind the M&E training in 2009 and have provided funding for 60 participants.

Following a rigorous selection process eight country teams from across Eastern and Southern Africa were chosen to attend the Ipact monitoring and evaluation training course in Arusha, Tanzania last month. Countries represented in Arusha included; Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

The training is typically for groups of national Maternal and Neonatal Health Managers and their supporting partners and has been instrumental in helping developing countries to track their progress towards MDG 4&5. Countries represented in Arusha included representatives of the Ministry of Health, UN organisations and some district/regional level personnel.

In the wake of the training, participants were eager to return home to start working on their plans. Each person is now equipped with a critical appreciation of their national Maternal Neonatal Health Roadmaps and the skills to develop further monitoring and evaluation plans.

Future training

The next Monitoring and Evaluation of Maternal and Neonatal Health Programmes training will take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 6th-17th December 2009. A Francophone version of the course is planned for January 2010 in Morocco. Visit the Ipact website for details. www.ipact-int.com



Teams of Maternal and Child Health personnel meet in Tanzania for M&E training

Ipact researcher leads Ghana Annual Health Review

An Ipact researcher led the annual performance review to assess Ghana's progress in the health sector in 2008. A team of consultants, led by Dr Sophie Witter, undertook the work which focused on four main areas; service delivery, human resources, public finance management and the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). The research team identified strengths in the health system in Ghana but also some challenges of fragmentation. The findings of the review were presented by Dr Witter to the annual health summit and fed into planning for the next year.

BMC International Health and Human Rights have published a related paper on the development of Ghana's NHIS. Dr Witter, lead author of the paper, highlighted the considerable interest in exploring the potential of social health insurance to increase access to and affordability of health care in Africa.