

South-East Asian Regional Network on Strengthening Newborn health & Prevention of Birth Defects



WHO Collaborating Centre for Training and Research in Newborn Care
Collaborating Centre for Training in Clinical Laboratory Genetics in Developing
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Regional Meeting on Every Newborn Action Plan and Postnatal care for Mother and New-born, 11-13th November 2014, Colombo, Sri Lanka

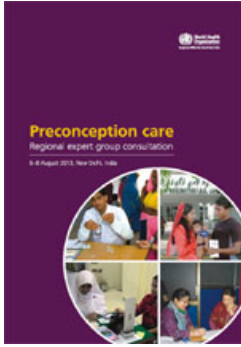


Meeting was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Health, Government of Sri Lanka

Regional meeting was organized by WHO-SEARO in collaboration with UNICEF to review country progress on the Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) and to disseminate recently released WHO technical guidelines on post natal care (PNC) for mothers and newborn, and develop common understanding for universal implementation of these in member countries of the region. Slow neonatal mortality reduction has retarded progress to MDG 4 in South-East Asia Region. The Joint UN regional statement on women and children health by Regional Directors of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA released in April 2014 has articulated the need for rapid expansion of coverage of evidence-based lifesaving interventions and improving the quality of care. The 67th World Health Assembly in May 2014 approved the ENAP and the related resolution to end preventable deaths. The ENAP is an evidence-informed roadmap for a triple gain in reduction in maternal mortality, stillbirths and newborn mortality. Postnatal care guidelines have been developed to strengthen care of mothers and newborns right from the critical period immediately after birth. About a hundred participants from ministries of health and partner organizations shared the progress, best practices and challenges, and developed tentative country action plans for effective implementation of ENAP and PNC guidelines.

Publications

Preconception care



Report of a regional expert group consultation, 6–8 August 2013, New Delhi, India

Preconception care is a set of interventions that are to be provided before pregnancy, to promote the health and well-being of women and couples, as well as to improve the pregnancy and child-health outcomes. Adolescence is a natural extension of the pre-pregnancy phase of the life-course continuum. During adolescence, in addition to initiation of sexual behaviour, it is recognized that several health-risk behaviours related to noncommunicable diseases, substance use, injuries, etc. are also initiated and may have lifelong implications. This phase of human life offers an excellent opportunity to promote adoption of healthy behaviours, to ensure health during adolescence, adulthood and later life. Evidence-based interventions can be provided as a package in primary health-care settings during the periods of adolescence (for healthy transition to adulthood), pre-pregnancy and inter-pregnancy care, and could be offered to adolescents in an age-appropriate manner.

[Read full publication](#)

Situation of Adolescent Pregnancy in South-East Asia



Adolescent health programmes in the Member States of the South-East Asia Region of WHO have progressively evolved over the last decade. Adolescent pregnancy has been identified as one of the major public health challenges and has implications for achievement of Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6. It has been experienced that nationally representative strategic information related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health including adolescent pregnancy is difficult to obtain.

This publication presents prevalence and trends on adolescent pregnancy and related health issues in the form of country factsheets and a regional summary. The data and information has been obtained from the most recent existing sources in the countries including national demographic and health surveys (DHS), reproductive health surveys, multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS), among others

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News and Views!

Developing Centres of Excellence in Knowledge Translation (KT) in maternal and perinatal health and preventing unsafe abortion



Grants for institutional capacity building- The finding that providing evidence from clinical research is necessary but not sufficient for the provision of optimal care has created interest in knowledge translation (KT), the scientific study of methods for closing the knowledge-to-practice gap and of the barriers and facilitators inherent in this process. Policy makers, funding agencies, clinicians, and researchers have recognized the need for facilitating the implementation of knowledge into practice and improve quality of care. While there has been an exponential growth in the interest in KT, to date there is limited capacity in the field. Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, and Zimbabwe are the selected African countries who can apply for this funding

Articles of Interest

- [Effectiveness of folic acid supplementation in pregnancy on reducing the risk of small-for-gestational age neonates: a population study, systematic review and meta-analysis.](#)
- [Birth defects data from population-based birth defects surveillance programs in the United States, 2007 to 2011: Highlighting orofacial clefts \(pages 895–904\)](#)
- [Prenatal screening, diagnosis, and pregnancy management of fetal neural tube defects.](#)
- [Efficacy of early neonatal supplementation with vitamin A to reduce mortality in infancy in Haryana, India \(Neovita\): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.](#)
- [Estimation of daily risk of neonatal death, including the day of birth, in 186 countries in 2013: a vital-registration and modelling-based study.](#)

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