The neoLENS Project

Journeys to scaling up care for small and sick newborns in Ethiopia, India, Malawi, and Rwanda

National stakeholders describe their stories of success

AlignMNH Opening Forum

21 April 2021
Significant achievements have been made in scale-up of quality care of the small and sick newborn, yet formal documentation of the process is lacking.

Special and intensive care is needed to achieve SDG 3.2 target to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births.

Sourced documentation to fully understand the scale-up experience and historical perspective of establishing inpatient newborn care is lacking in published literature.

Understanding the country-level pathways to establishing models of inpatient newborn care is vital to informing future investments and priorities.
Lessons Learned in Establishing Inpatient Newborn Care: The *neoLENS* Project

To describe the roadmap to reduction of neonatal mortality observed over time

**Ethiopia**
NMR (deaths per/1,000 live births)
- 1990: 59
- 2019: 28

**Rwanda**
NMR (deaths per/1,000 live births)
- 1990: 41
- 2019: 16

**India**
NMR (deaths per/1,000 live births)
- 1990: 57
- 2019: 22

**Malawi**
NMR (deaths per/1,000 live births)
- 1990: 50
- 2019: 20

neoLENS: Documenting the journey of approaches taken, barriers and enablers, and lessons learned through in-depth case studies across Ethiopia, India, Malawi, and Rwanda

To document and compare experiences and perceptions at the country level about the pathway to establish, scale, and strengthen inpatient newborn care units—

to improve access to care for the small and sick newborn.
neoLENS: Telling the country-level stories of establishing inpatient newborn care

Aim: To document approaches taken, barriers and enablers, and lessons learned for establishing and strengthening inpatient newborn care services as part of a network of newborn care.

- Mapping a framework based on the WHO Health System Building Blocks to document processes to establish inpatient newborn care systems.

- Creating a multi-country comparison of focused content on small and sick newborns within policies and guidelines.

- Identifying country-level governance, innovation strategies, partnerships and funding mechanisms.

- Developing cross-country event timelines to visualize the diverse roadmaps in establishing care models.
Content specific to the small and sick newborn in policy documents reflects partial alignment with WHO standards, which may not depict the larger scale of actual implementation and practice.

From the global perspective there has not been a uniform funding approach; more effective coordination may be beneficial.

Country-level innovation strategies and infrastructure improvements require greater documentation and recognition.

NeoLENS preliminary findings indicate understanding of the country-level scale-up experience and historical perspective is lacking.