HEALTH SYSTEMS AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Initiating Kangaroo Mother Care in Facilities in Limited Resource Settings

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Program/Project Purpose: Taking a cue from the Global Every Newborn Action Plan, India launched the India Newborn Action Plan (INAP) in September 2014. INAP is being implemented within the National Health Mission of the Government of India (GOI). Majority (80%) of mortality among newborns occurs among low birth weight and preterm newborns together constituting ‘small newborns’. Recognizing this fact, care of small and sick newborn is one of the core pillars of INAP.

Evidence shows that KMC is a simple and low resource intervention that leads to decrease in duration of stay in Sick Newborn Units (SNCU), increased breastfeeding, decreased infections etc. Though the intervention is simple, it needs substantial change in attitude of nurses and doctors working in SNCU, improved knowledge and skills and infrastructure to provide effective KMC. To address these issues, GOI released KMC guidelines in September 2014, for dissemination across the country. However, in several northern states the guidelines have not taken effect.

Structure/Method/Design: The USAID supported Vridhhi Project, works in six large States of the country and is a consortium of two partners IPE-Global and John Snow, Inc. (JSI) Under the project, JSI has been mandated to set up working models in two rural, poor performing districts (Gumla in Jharkhand and Haridwar in Uttarakhand) to demonstrate rapid scale-up of newer child health interventions of GOI – Facility-based Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), Injection Gentamicin to newborns by Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC). As part of the care of small and sick newborns package, JSI took up the mandate to establish KMC in two SNCUs located at district headquarters as demonstration models. At these sites, all staff have undergone training in KMC and Infant Feeding. The Project also facilitates logistics, supportive supervision, data recording and reporting.

Outcome & Evaluation: Activities to roll out KMC were initiated in May 2015 and learnings are being documented.

Going Forward: The demonstration of successful implementation of KMC in these resource limited settings will set the stage for scale up of the activities across the State and country. Experiences will be ready for sharing by March 2017.

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University of Arizona, University of Cuenca and The Cinterandes Foundation: A New Global Health Collaboration in Ecuador

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