Welcome to the MNCH Newsletter - First Edition

We are very excited to present our first bi-weekly MNCH newsletter to all Senior Midwife Tutors and friends of MNCH. Our goal is to keep you informed on Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health Care in Ethiopia, in Africa and beyond, sharing with you articles from a wide range of sources.

Do you have an idea or a success story to share? Maybe you’ve heard of an event that we should all support. Did you just find a solution you’d like to suggest to others? Please send us your news, events and postings for future editions. There are so many interesting experiences to share and opportunities to learn in our newsletter. Please send submissions by email.

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National Action Plan Launched to End Fistula within Six Years-Ethiopia

In Addis Ababa on July 07, 2014 the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) announced that it has prepared a National Action Plan that helps eliminate obstetric fistula from Ethiopia in the coming six years.

FMOH, in cooperation with key stakeholders, launched it at a national conference in Addis Ababa with the motto “Ending Fistula, Transforming Lives.”

Opening the conference, Health Minister Dr. Kesetebirhan Admassu said the action plan is launched with the belief that the country would eliminate fistula caused by delivery in the coming six years. Read more here.
The Lancet Midwifery Series Launched

The Lancet Midwifery Series, produced by an international group of academics, clinicians, professional midwives, policymakers and advocates for women and children, is the most critical, wide-reaching examination of midwifery ever conducted. It shows the scale of the positive impact that can be achieved when effective, high-quality midwifery is available to all women and their babies. Apart from saving lives, it also improves their continuing health and wellbeing and has other long-lasting benefits. Read more here.

Babies born to healthy moms worldwide are strikingly similar in size

Babies’ growth in the womb and their size at birth, especially their length, are strikingly similar the world over when babies are born to healthy, well-educated and well-nourished mothers. That is the finding of a large study that involved almost 60,000 pregnancies in eight defined urban areas in Brazil, China, India, Italy, Kenya, Oman, the UK and USA.

Click here to read more.

Diary of a Midwife: Uganda

All mothers remember the births of their children. A memory, conscious or not, stays with them for the rest of their lives. If we can remember only that, then we can continue to commit ourselves to making birth the best possible experience for women everywhere. This is a midwifery diary written by Marva Zohar. Click here to read more.

More articles....

If you want to read more articles, you can access them from our MNCH Dropbox. The articles cover a wide range of MNCH topics from a variety of sources.

For more information on how to access the approximately 200 articles in Dropbox, email us at:

ET-MNCH@ualberta.ca
Clinical Opinion on Use of Maternal Oxygen During Labor

When a fetal heartbeat pattern becomes irregular during labor, many practitioners give oxygen to the mother. But questions remain whether this oxygen supplementation benefits the fetus or may actually be potentially harmful. A new article aims to make recommendations about the safety of the use of maternal oxygen supplementation in laboring women. To read more click here.

Ethiopia Solidifying Commitments to Ensuring Zero Maternal and Newborn Deaths

Just picture yourself in one of the Ethiopian villages where someone is giving birth without a midwife, and think about possible complications in pregnancy as many women often stay in prolonged labor.

Moreover, there is no access to a health post and poor infrastructure to reach out to. On the other hand, picture yourself in a certain village where a mother is giving birth and suddenly the mother finds out that her new baby isn't breathing, moving or crying. She screams out for help and a midwife comes in to check on her. To read more click here.

Global, Regional, and National Levels of Neonatal, Infant, and Under-5 Mortality During 1990-2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013

Here is a recent Lancet publication on levels and causes of neonatal, infant and under-5 mortality to which The Ethiopian Public Heath Officers Association members contributed. To read more click here.
Making pragmatic choices: women’s experiences of delivery care in Northern Ethiopia

In 2003, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health launched the Health Extension Programme (HEP), which was intended to increase access to reproductive health care. This study explores women’s experiences and perceptions regarding delivery care in Tigray a northern region of Ethiopia, and enables us to make suggestions for better implementation of maternal health care services in this setting. Click here to read more.

Sutures or staples? Best choice for C-section

Settling a long-time debate, researchers show that sewing up a C-section skin incision with sutures leads to fewer complications than using surgical staples. Caesarean sections account for about a third of all deliveries in the United States (in China that number is as high as 46 percent and Brazil is even higher. A 2013 study showed that over 50 percent of doctors prefer to use staples over sutures, for ease of use, speed of the procedure, and for closing deeper incisions such as those in overweight women. To read more click here.

Systematic Review on Human Resources for Health (HRH) Interventions to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes

This review focuses on the impact of HRH interventions on health care professionals defined as skilled birth attendants to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity. It derives lessons, gaps and recommendations based on the studies conducted on HRH implementations in developing countries. To read the full document please download here.
With 500 days left to score Millennium Development Goals, a new roadmap has been released to save lives of additional 140,000 women, and 250,000 newborns by end of 2015

United Nations Secretary-General’s Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Advocates, key supporters of the health-related MDGs, presented an Acceleration Roadmap to save an additional 140,000 women’s and 250,000 newborns’ lives and provide universal access to modern contraceptives. Achieving these is essential to reaching the development goals on maternal and child health by the end of 2015. Click here to read more.

Senior Midwife Tutor Story Corner—Tell us what's in yours!

We are inviting Senior Midwife Tutors share with us any inspiring or success stories they may have come across in relation to their day to day endeavors. This will give us a good opportunity to know and learn better ways of doing things as midwives and midwife tutors!

Please submit your stories directly to Meseret Desta Haileyesus.

About this Newsletter

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