WELCOME to the latest edition of EVIDENCE press

news

- **UN Global Strategy** Commitment to the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health was renewed in September 2011, one year on from its launch. The University of Aberdeen, Immpact and the student society Medsin Aberdeen have pledged their support to this major worldwide effort to accelerate progress on women’s and children’s health.

- **FemHealth** is a £2.9 million, EU funded, international research project which is assessing the results of fee exemption on maternal health in West Africa and Morocco. For full details visit: [www.abdn.ac.uk/femhealth](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/femhealth)

- **Women’s perceptions of quality and satisfaction with maternal health services** This study commenced in India in November 2011 and is funded by MCH STAR-USAID.

- **Quality Roadmap Initiative** Funded by the Maternal Health Task Force, the Public Health Foundation of India and Immpact aim to increase institutional births by improving the quality of care at facility level in India.

- **Evidence for Action to Save Mothers & Newborns in Africa** This major new DFID-funded programme focuses on six countries across sub-Saharan Africa. Immpact is one of several partners supporting the programme in Ethiopia.

- **Infection Control** Situation analyses have been completed on infection control practices during delivery care in Nigeria and Mexico, generating high levels of interest in the countries for improving quality of care. In India, our large intervention time series study in Gujarat is nearing completion and we expect to disseminate our findings next year.

knowledge exchange

- **Book launch** Immpact has made a key contribution to a new book on maternal and perinatal health in developing countries. The book has a practical policy approach and will be available in April 2012.

- **MacArthur Foundation** Immpact have been awarded a grant to work with Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria for post graduate public health curriculum development.

- **Immpact** has also participated in several key events this year, including the Global Health Metrics and Evaluation Conference, Seattle, March 2011 which debated the best ways to translate data into cost-effective policy for improved population health. Addressing the links between poverty and the off-target health MDGs: Maternal, newborn & child survival, Aberdeen, January 2011 was the first in a series of four seminars on poverty and sexual and reproductive health led by GHP3 at the University of Southampton and funded by the ESRC. Scotland’s first Global Student Forum, held in September in Edinburgh was an opportunity to engage with school pupils about worldwide efforts to promote better maternal health in developing countries.

tools & resources

- **Atlas of Birth** All of the maps and case studies are free to download along with the film “Birth and Death” at: [www.atlasofbirth.com](http://www.atlasofbirth.com)

- **Sharing Knowledge for Action on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health** PMNCH Knowledge Summaries synthesize the scientific evidence for MNCH in a short, user-friendly format to inform policy and practice. They bring together information from trusted sources such as journal articles, systematic reviews, technical guidelines, policy documents etc. Each summary is peer-reviewed. Visit the MNCH Knowledge Portal ([http://portal.pmnch.org](http://portal.pmnch.org)) to access this valuable resource.

For more information on all of the items reported here & to sign up for Immpact updates
Visit [www.immpact-international.org](http://www.immpact-international.org) Email us at [info@immpact-international.org](mailto:info@immpact-international.org)

---

evidence markers

Some recent Immpact publications


Byass, P. & Graham, W.J.; (2011) Grappling with uncertainties along the MDG trail *Lancet*


Hundley, V.A.; Avan, B.I; Braunholtz, D.A. et al. (2011) Are birth kits a good idea? A systematic review of the evidence *Midwifery*


Hussein, J.; Mavalankar, D.V.; Sharma, S. et al. (2011) A review of health system infection control measures in developing countries: what can be learned to reduce maternal mortality. *Globalization and Health*


de Brouwere, V.; Richard, F.; Witter, S. (2010) Access to maternal and perinatal health services: lessons from successful and less successful examples of improving access to safe delivery and care of the newborn *Tropical Medicine & International Health*


team news

We are pleased to welcome Nadia Cunden who has joined as a Research Assistant on the FEMHealth project and is doing her PhD on the cost-effectiveness of exemption policies in West Africa. Tendai Mhlanga is also pursuing a PhD with us, focusing on delays in seeking maternity care in Zimbabwe. We are pleased to announce that Lovney Kanguru, one of our Research Assistants, has commenced a PhD on the epidemiology of, and health services provided for, non-communicable diseases in pregnancy. Zheng Wang has joined us to complete his MSc on the epidemiology of gestational diabetes in developing countries. Finally congratulations are due to medical student Navya Bezawada who has received an Aberdeen Summer Research Studentship Prize for her research project carried out during her internship with Immpact: A systematic review on the incidence, prevalence and mortality rates due to diabetes mellitus during pregnancy.
Missions update

SOMALILAND A significant information gap on MCH indicators exists in Somaliland and good baseline data is needed for programme planning, monitoring and impact evaluation. DFID commissioned Ipact to conduct a scoping study to assess the use of Immpact tools (www.immpact-international.org/toolkit) to develop capacity for collecting and analysing data on maternal and infant mortality, still birth rates, breast feeding, female genital mutilation and contraceptive practices. Ipact researchers embarked on a two week visit to Nairobi and Somaliland and engaged with a broad range of stakeholders. Field visits to selected health facilities were undertaken and efforts were made to learn about the realities of carrying out research in this difficult context. A feasibility report has been submitted to DFID with recommendations for the way forward.

INTERNATIONAL GROWTH CENTRE Ipact will provide input over a three month period around the governance of the International Growth Centre (IGC) a DFID-funded centre run from LSE and Oxford University. The Centre offers independent advice on economic growth to governments of developing countries.

STATE OF THE WORLD’S MIDWIFERY Ipact provided technical inputs to a high-profile global report on the State of the World’s Midwifery: Delivering Health, Saving Lives. This was commissioned by UNFPA and released in June 2011. It can be accessed at: www.unfpa.org/sowmy/report/home

RWANDA A full assessment of UNFPA’s 6th Country Programme is now complete. Ipact and its partner within the University of Aberdeen, Centre for Sustainable International Development (CSID), carried out the evaluation with in-country partners the Institute of Population and Research in Rwanda (IPAR). All three programme components (reproductive health, population and gender) were assessed. Findings and recommendations for future programs will be released in a final report and a workshop will be organised with relevant stakeholders.

RAF Ipact has provided technical support to the British Council as a partner in the Research and Advocacy Fund in Pakistan since 2009 (see www.rafpakistan.org). To date, we have contributed to: assessment of over 400 proposals; development of specific priorities for research and advocacy; provision of assistance to applicants to improve their proposals; and improvement of the grant appraisal and approval process.

AFGHANISTAN MEASURE DHS REPORT, 2010 The Afghanistan Mortality Survey (AMS) 2010 is the first nationwide survey of its kind. The survey which covers all 34 provinces of the country was designed to measure mortality levels and cause of death, with a special focus on maternal mortality. Ipact researchers contributed as part of the independent technical advisory group for the survey. The final report, key findings summary and datasets are available at: www.measuredhs.com

BRAC Ipact’s support for the Improving Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Survival (IMNCS) project in Bangladesh continues. Recent activities included intensive input to prepare a report on findings from the midline survey for the IMNCS project. A week long writing workshop for BRAC researchers is being organized by Ipact and will be held at the end of February 2012 in Dhaka.

Welcome to Ipact news

“It has been an important and eventful year for Ipact. We have prioritised our alliances and channelled our efforts towards establishing partnerships with prominent academic institutions with related interests to Ipact in low and middle income countries. We have been active in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somaliland, Rwanda and Malaysia and are looking forward to working with our partners, stakeholders and consultants in the coming months to continue to provide maternal health evaluations and training.”

Shelagh Barr
Ipact Business Development Manager

Building capacity for measurement

Ipact’s Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Training programme helps to strengthen the M&E skills of national and regional programme managers working in the field of maternal and newborn health and is instrumental in helping developing countries track progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Training in Malaysia came to a successful close in February of 2011. Participants reported that the course was a valuable opportunity to develop practical skills in M&E and share knowledge and experiences with other like-minded professionals.

Although there are no current plans for training in 2012 we look forward to hearing from those interested in pursuing this type of training.

For general enquiries please contact:
Ipact
University of Aberdeen
Health Sciences Building, Foresterhill,
Aberdeen, AB25 2ZD, U.K.
Email: info@ipact-int.com Website: www.ipact-int.com

For general enquiries please contact:
Ipact
University of Aberdeen
Health Sciences Building, Foresterhill,
Aberdeen, AB25 2ZD, U.K.
Email: info@ipact-int.com Website: www.ipact-int.com