EquiNaM

building evidence to support equitable improvement in newborn and maternal health
Summary

Funder: ESRC & DFID

Period: 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2014

Aims: (i) **Research**: Build evidence to support equitable improvement in newborn & maternal health.

(ii) Learn from & **engage with stakeholders** to support uptake of newly generated evidence base.
Background: large inequalities

- Progress towards Millennium Development Goals has been highly uneven.

- Lower socio-economic groups lag behind their more fortunate compatriots for most MDGs.

- In particular, inequalities in maternal and child health are huge.
Large poor-rich inequalities in mortality within countries

![Graph showing under-5 mortality rates in various countries and years.](chart.png)
To make things worse, **effective interventions** are known, but **rarely reach those who need them most**.

**Even ‘basic’ interventions** that are thought to be pro-poor, such as immunisation, tend to reach the better-off to a greater extent.
Inequalities in health care use

Professional delivery care
- Rich: 90%
- Poor: 30%

Full vaccination coverage
- Rich: 70%
- Poor: 40%

Medical treatment ARI
- Rich: 60%
- Poor: 40%
Background: evidence gap

Unfortunately, little is known about:

- **how to** effectively **reach** poor and otherwise disadvantaged groups
- **how to address** socio-economic inequalities in mortality
What we do

An integrated approach to support an equitable improvement in newborn and maternal health:

Research

generate evidence using high-quality data & randomised controlled trials

Stakeholder engagement

learn from & engage with stakeholders to support uptake of our newly generated evidence base
Pillars of our work

Our research and stakeholder engagement are built on 3 pillars:

- Surveillance
- Randomised trials
- Expert network
Pillar 1: surveillance

Global network of surveillance sites:

- sites:
  - India: urban (Mumbai)
  - India: rural (Orissa, Jharkhand)
  - Nepal: Dhanusha district
  - Nepal: Makwanpur district
  - Bangladesh
  - Malawi

- prospective surveillance of birth outcomes
- post-partum interview
- combined population > 2 million
Pillar 2: trials

Cluster randomised trials

• Community mobilisation with women’s groups
• Aim: reduce newborn and maternal mortality

• Meetings:
  – monthly
  – local facilitator
  – participatory learning & action cycle
  – picture cards, games, story telling
Pillar 1 and 2 for research

Surveillance data to examine:
• how socio-economic inequalities translate into inequalities in newborn & maternal mortality;

Secondary analysis of trial data to examine:
• how to address the exclusion of lower socio-economic groups from interventions;
• how to reduce socio-economic inequalities in newborn & maternal mortality.
Pillar 3: International expert network

Cutting-edge research, in-depth field experience, high profile in policy making

UK
Malawi
India
Nepal
Bangladesh
Netherlands

UCL CIHD
MaiMwana
Ekjut & SNEHA
MIRA
PCP-BADAS
Erasmus University
Engaging with and learning from stakeholders:

- drawing on **experiential evidence** regarding:
  - what works to reach lower socio-economic groups
  - how to reduce inequalities in newborn and maternal health.

- to **increase awareness** among those in power of the problem of large inequalities in maternal and newborn mortality

- to **ensure uptake** of evidence base
Stakeholder engagement

Y1: Start-up consultations: stakeholders input into project design & evidence base

Y2: Regional workshops: stakeholders react to first findings & start-up consultation doc.

Y3: Dissemination: of conclusions & recommendations to stakeholders

Uptake of recommendations: Stakeholders set policy & research agenda

- Website announcements
- Information sheet
- Generic PPT presentation

- Study announcement: stakeholders provided with project information

- Meetings/workshops with stakeholders
- Presentation & discussion at conferences
- District Assembly Meetings (Malawi)
- Stakeholder interviews
- Literature review

- Study announcement

- Delhi workshop
- Malawi workshop

- New research proposals
- Operational & policy change

- Through women’s groups
- Workshops/meetings with policy makers
- Policy briefs
- Conference & meeting presentations
- Peer reviewed publications
- Press activity
Stakeholder engagement

Year 1: Study announcements

• Project website:
  http://equinam.global-health-inequalities.info

Downloadable from website:
• Project Information Sheet
• EquiNaM PPT
Stakeholder engagement

Year 1: Start-up consultations
Main objectives:

• to incorporate learning from stakeholders regarding what works to ensure an equitable achievement of MDG4 and 5;
• to build a platform for ongoing engagement.
Stakeholder engagement: start-up consultations

Learning from stakeholders:
What is your (organisation’s) experience regarding what works to reach lower socio-economic groups?
• Can you provide examples of interventions that worked really well in terms of reaching lower socio-economic groups?
• Which factors contributed to the success?
• Will these factors be different in other settings than your own?
Stakeholder engagement: start-up consultations

Learning from stakeholders:

• What does not work to reach lower socio-economic groups?

• Example of interventions that contribute to increasing inequalities between socio-economic groups?

• What are the main barriers to reduce inequalities in newborn and maternal health? How to overcome?

• What evidence do you miss to ensure that your organisation/project can reach lower-socio-economic groups & contribute to reducing inequalities in maternal and newborn health?
Start-up consultation

Year 2: Regional workshops

• Asia: India (Delhi)
• Africa: Malawi

• Present & discuss initial findings from:
  – surveillance and trial data analyses
  – stakeholder consultation
How to get involved

Interested to get involved in our stakeholder engagement process or receive further info?

Please contact the Principal Investigator Dr. Tanja AJ Houweling:
info@equinam.global-health-inequalities.info

Or directly contact one of the project coordinators in one of the field sites. For details: visit the EquiNaM website.
More information:

http://equinam.global-health-inequalities.info