



Real-Time Neonatal and Stillbirth Mortality Audits

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Program
- ◆ Unit: Disease Health Protection and Promotion

OBJECTIVES

The Neonatal and stillbirth audit aims at improving the quality of newborn care in Zaatari and Azraq refugee camps. Audit is conducted by GHD|EMPHNET as an independent organization to promote greater acceptance of the practice and a more collaborative review of findings. Thus, created an enabling environment to conduct auditing.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project will be implemented Zaatari and Azraq Syrian refugee camps in Jordan.

BENEFICIARIES

Pregnant women and newborns from Syrian refugees' resident in Zaatari and Azraq camps in Jordan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Since 2017, GHD|EMPHNET has carried out neonatal auditing services in both Zaatari and Azraq camps. Since then, GHD|EMPHNET utilizes its experience and knowledge to conduct audits in a no-blame, interdisciplinary approach to provide data for decision making and improve the care provided to all mothers and babies. This year, GHD|EMPHNET's certified and experienced technical staff will continue to perform these audits in both camps and will review and update procedures and instruments' database based on UNHCR guidelines. GHD|EMPHNET will keep enhancing the reporting system that already built over the last five years in addition to working on building the public health capacities through several trainings and workshops at both camps. This will be through, identifying common risk factors and characteristics of preterm deliveries that leads to neonatal deaths and stillbirths, along with other potential contributing family-related factors. It will provide a complete neonatal death and stillbirth classified database and programmatic recommendations to address current gaps and implications of the practice. As a result, the above mentioned shall positively impact the healthcare service delivery and will ultimately contribute to preventing future newborn deaths.

PROJECT PHASES

The neonatal and stillbirth mortality audit project involves three main steps and procedures to take place in both camps

- I- Apply the established and validated methodology in all Neonatal and Stillbirths Deaths Audits
- II- Respond within 24 hours for neonatal death stillbirth notifications from the camps health providers and those responsible for reporting mortalities and conduct authorized reviews with families, especially women
- III- Electronically report to UNHCR within 72 hour of death notification with an analysis of the contributing risk factors to death. As well as technical and annual report with full situation analysis, risk factors, and programmatic and sustainable recommendations to preformed activities.

Project Start and End Date	January 2021 – December 2021
Partner Organizations	United Nation Higher Council for Refugees (UNHCR) Bluemont International Inc./ Jordan, UNHCR
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Currently . . .

The need to build up neonatal mortality review framework in Zaatari camp in Jordan surfaced in 2013 to respond to the elevated number of neonatal deaths and stillbirths' rates observed during the unfolding humanitarian situation. The lack of feedback and misperceptions of the aim of the process, receptiveness to feedback and fear of repercussions by service providers entailed the need to promote greater acceptance of the practice and a system for more collaborative review of findings. The system that was established in Zaatari and Azraq camp and audits in both camps have shown strong connection between neonatal deaths and early/ late age pregnancy, lack of awareness in families of the importance of birth spacing between pregnancies, and the limited number and insufficient quality of antenatal visits to health care centers in the camps or the referral hospitals.

What is next . . .

The project is a continuation to EMPHNET efforts that started in 2017, working as independent organization in Jordan to conduct audits of neonatal death and still birth and to promote a clear common ground for a collaborative review of findings and auditing services. This effort support improving the quality of the newborn care in Zaatari and Azraq refugee camps. In specific, this is through identifying the avoidable factors that result in neonatal and stillbirths' death, sharing them with the stakeholders for needed actions to address these factors, and bridging any gaps in the health services. Thus, more attention would be given to improving the quality of healthcare services provided for women and babies during pregnancy and delivery, preventing and protecting women who might be exposed to domestic violence and facilitating their access to psycho-social support within the camps, and expanding their knowledge on the importance of antenatal care and family planning. Ultimately, the above-mentioned will contribute to preventing future morbidity and mortality.

Past Years Auditing Outcomes

In 2015

- **Zaatari Camp:**
Neonatal Mortality Rate
14.5/1000 livebirths
- **Azraq Camp:**
Neonatal Mortality Rate
18.2/1000 live births

In 2020

The Neonatal Mortality Rate
10.3/1000 livebirths in both
camps

Common Risk Factors

- Early/late age pregnancy
- Lack of awareness of the
importance of family planning

EMPHNET Information: Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

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