

Saving Newborn Lives (SNL) is a 15-year initiative of Save the Children (US) with the goal of improving neonatal survival and health in developing countries. Established in 2000 with a generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, SNL aims at increased and sustained use of healthful practices and key services for improving newborn health.

SNL works in over 10 countries in Asia, Africa and South America having the highest burden of newborn deaths. SNL aims at forging strong alliances with national governments, professional bodies, non-profit organizations and multilateral and bilateral agencies. SNL's country programs are based on local needs and priorities, and developed and implemented in partnership with national stakeholders.

SNL's strategic approach and some representative activities are as follows:

- **Strengthen and expand proven cost-effective services.** SNL works to improve policies and expand programs to reduce neonatal mortality in developing countries. Some examples of activities in this regard include: programs on tetanus toxoid immunization of women in child bearing age in Mali, Pakistan and Ethiopia; and large scale community-based programs on essential newborn care in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Mali, Malawi and Bolivia.
- **Adapt and refine promising model programs.** SNL supports the adaptation and expansion of successful model programs that improve the quality of newborn care practices by mothers and family members. For instance, SNL is supporting Kangaroo Mother Care programs in Malawi, Vietnam and Bangladesh.
- **Advance state of the art related to newborn care.** SNL is collaborating with local researchers, organizations and institutions to test effective approaches and introduce new, low-cost technologies that will impact newborn survival. SNL is supporting over 30 research projects world-wide. Key areas of research include: neonatal IMCI, positive deviance approach to improve newborn health, testing Uniject for antibiotic administration in neonates, improving understanding of cultural factors affecting community and household practices and evaluating community based approaches to prevent and manage birth asphyxia, sepsis



and hypothermia. In addition, SNL is developing new tools and methodologies to understand the causes of neonatal death, improve mortality reporting, and identify and manage sick neonates.

- **Mobilize commitment and resources.** SNL is working to educate government, non-governmental organizations, and donors about the nature and magnitude of the problem of neonatal mortality and what can be done to address it. SNL published and disseminated the first-ever 'State of World's Newborns' report in 2001. It organized events at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2002. SNL is contributing to partnering formulation of neonatal health strategies in several focus countries.
- **Establish strategic partnerships.** SNL is working in collaboration with a wide range of institutions in developed and developing countries, including universities, non-governmental organizations, ministries of health and development assistance agencies. These partnerships enable SNL to promote action research, disseminate program learning and take good ideas to scale to improve neonatal health and survival. SNL is the secretariat of the Healthy Newborn Partnership, an interagency group of over 30 organizations; and a member of the new international Partnership on Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health.

Some of the resource materials prepared by SNL are: situational analysis reports on newborn health in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bolivia, Mali and Malawi; global reviews on interventions for newborn

health and on-birth asphyxia, formative research guide, policy briefs on neonatal health ('Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies', 'Why Invest in Newborn Health' and 'Evidence to Save Newborn Lives'), a compendium 'Shaping Policy for Maternal and Newborn Health', training materials for providers, and monitoring and evaluation tools.



India Program

SNL is supporting a host of programs on neonatal health in India.

Operations Research

SNL is supporting Ankur project of the Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health (SEARCH), Gadchiroli, with the aim of replicating SEARCH's much-acclaimed model of home-based newborn care (HBNC) in 7 rural, tribal and urban communities in Maharashtra serviced by NGOs. SNL is also assisting SEARCH in refining and disseminating HBNC training materials. Other research studies supported by SNL include: hypothermia prevention and management trial (Lucknow), evaluation of CARE India project on newborn health (Lucknow) and Uniject gentamicin neonatal dose standardization study (Vellore).





Kangaroo Mother Care

SNL sponsored a workshop on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) in Delhi in 2002 in which the leading neonatologists outlined a roadmap for promoting KMC in the country. Accordingly, five physician-nurse teams were trained in KMC at Bagota, Columbia. In the next phase, SNL is now supporting

PGIMER Chandigarh and KEM Mumbai in developing their KMC demonstration sites, and AIIMS New Delhi in refining training materials and launching an India-KMC website. The three institutions will provide in-service, on-site and continuing training and education in KMC to physicians, nurses and others; and assist interested centers in operationalizing this promising modality of newborn care.

Nursing Training and Education

SNL is supporting a project on capacity-building for newborn nursing at district and sub-district levels. Training module developed at AIIMS will be field-tested and disseminated. Trainers' workshop will be followed by workshops in the districts.

Partnerships

SNL is working with professional bodies, bilateral and multilateral organizations and institutions to promote maternal and newborn health in India. National Neonatology Forum (NNF) and SNL are preparing a 'State of India's Newborns' report, a treatise on newborn health in the country. SNL is proud to be associated with other programs of NNF including newborn week activities and the annual conventions. SNL is assisting the Government of India in developing the strategy and implementation plan for the second phase of the Reproductive and Child Health program (RCH II) to be launched in 2004.

Save the Children (US)

Save the Children (SC), a non-profit organization with over 65 years of experience, is a pre-eminent provider of development and humanitarian assistance in 45 countries around the globe. SC aims at creating lasting positive change in the lives of children in need. A constituent of the 26-member International Save the Children Alliance with programs in over 100 countries, Save the Children, works with communities, local NGO's, government ministries and international organizations through a combination of approaches including community mobilization, institutional development, partnerships and advocacy in areas of health, education, economic opportunities, food security and emergencies.



For more information, please contact:

[Saving Newborn Lives / Save the Children \(US\)](#)

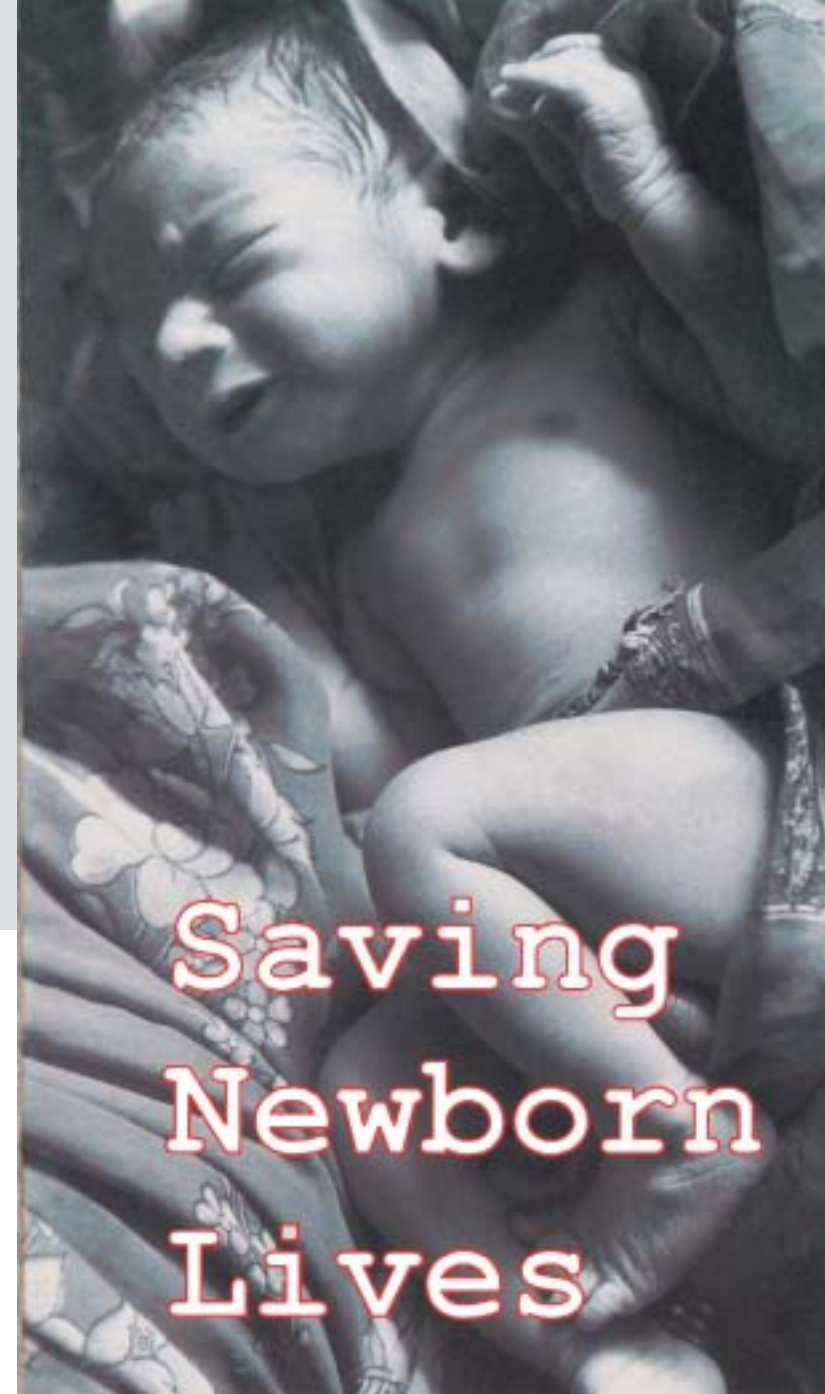
2000 M Street, NW, Suite 500

Washington DC 20036

Phone 202-530-4377

jruben@dc.savechildren.org

www.savethechildren.org



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