

LESSONS LEARNED IMPLEMENTING KMC IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN THROUGH A REGIONAL NETWORK

Moderator and Presenter #1: Dr. Nathalie Charpak

Moderator and Presenter #1 institution: Kangaroo Foundation, Bogota – Colombia

Presenter # 1 presentation title: Introduction to the Kangaroo Foundation KMC diffusion model “see one, do one, teach one”

Presenter # 2: Dr. Goldy Mazia

Presenter # 2: institution: Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP)/PATH and representing USAID Health Care Improvement Project (HCI)/University Research Co., LLC

Presenter # 2 presentation title: A regional approach to building cost-effective, sustainable KMC programs: Scaling up, sharing, and measuring results.

Presenter # 3: Dr. Bertha Pooley

Presenter # 3 institution: MCHIP/Save the Children/SNL

Presenter # 3 presentation title: Implementing KMC in the health care system and the community

Abstract: Objectives: This panel will provide program implementers with an overview of new evidence to support Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) as an effective intervention, emphasize the effectiveness of a multi-partner regional approach and the successful application of KMC using a quality improvement approach to go beyond training issues and address the operational details of building a sustainable KMC program within a hospital. The panel will also share experiences using a virtual space (online Community of Practice at http://www.maternoinfantil.org/comunidades_practica/) to enable implementers in different countries to share their experiences. Results will also be presented from a cost-effectiveness analysis for a KMC program in Nicaragua, which showed the program to be cost-saving. Program implementers will understand key challenges in establishing sustainable KMC programs and learn about practical strategies for measuring results.

Background: 9% of babies are born premature in Latin America, yet many do not receive the quality care they need due to overcrowded and under-resourced neonatal units. KMC presents a humanized, effective, simpler and low cost intervention that is beneficial for babies, their families, and hospitals, with important reductions in morbidity and mortality compared with conventional management for premature and low birth weight babies. Many countries sent teams to receive KMC clinical training from the Kangaroo Foundation in Bogota, but as they were not trained in program implementation, the programs were not sustained. Since 2009, the Kangaroo Foundation, MCHIP and HCI have provided technical support to seven countries in the region to ensure sustainable, effective programs that can be scaled up to hospitals and peripheral facilities.

Methods: The panel will present efforts to support implementation and institutionalization of KMC programs in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) by discussing several approaches taken by USAID, MCHIP and HCI. Dr. Mazia will present an overview of advances in KMC program implementation

in Latin America, including challenges faced by these implementers, and the development of the regional approach, including MCHIP's experience supporting the establishment of KMC programs in the Dominican Republic and HCI's experiences establishing KMC programs in Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. She will also present on efforts to standardize indicators to measure progress in program implementation and impact and share findings from the cost-effectiveness analysis of KMC program in Nicaragua that was carried out by HCI. Bertha Pooley will present the development of the KMC program in Paraguay and Bolivia through health services networks and their linkages with the community, as well as ways to address the challenge of the networks to respond to an efficient surveillance after early discharge. With the support of USAID and MCHIP, HCI is developing a regional community of practice (COP) to enable dialogue and sharing among implementers across LAC and build the knowledge base for KMC program implementation in the region. The COP was launched at a regional meeting of ten KMC country programs in December 2011. Dr. Mazia's presentation will include an overview of the key steps hospitals implementing a program face and how they can benefit from learning from others; she will also describe COP features and experiences in its first year of operation.

Results: This panel will provide program implementers with an overview of the results of second generation implementation of KMC programs in LAC and describe the results of a cost-effectiveness analysis for a KMC program in Nicaragua, which showed the program to be cost-saving.

Conclusions: This panel shares the process and results of building a regional partnership in KMC across LAC, contributing to the knowledge base for KMC programs and research. Implementation of these programs has been an iterative process across the region, allowing for countries to incorporate lessons learned from others, including challenges to implement KMC at scale in health systems.

Implications: This multi-faceted approach to strengthen implementation efforts and promote institutionalization of KMC programs in LAC improves the scale-up and sustainability of these programs and improved outcomes for premature and low birth weight babies across the region. Continued research about KMC and communication between countries will be important going forward.

List of partners: USAID, Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP), USAID Health Care Improvement Project, Save the Children/Saving Newborn Lives, Kangaroo Foundation

