

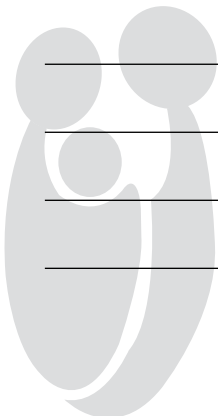
GUIDANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF KANGAROO MOTHER CARE PROGRAMS AT SCALE



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ABSTRACT:

In 1998 at the second International Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) conference KMC was declared “as a basic right of the newborn and should be an integral part of management of all newborns in all settings, at all levels of care and in all countries.” Almost 15 years after this declaration, most newborn infants do not have access to this preventive and therapeutic care because of limited geographic coverage within countries. Using lessons learned from supporting the introduction and expansion of KMC services in various countries, the USAID’s Maternal and Child Health integrated Program and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Saving Newborn Lives Project in collaboration with other implementing partners developed an implementation guide that details the key steps in the development, implementation and expansion of sustainable, facility-based KMC services in developing countries. The guide highlights the steps for addressing some of the key barriers to nation-wide implementation of KMC including lack of providers’ knowledge on the efficacy of KMC, policy and financial and human resources limitations. The critical steps include a situational analysis of care of preterm births and low birth weight infants in the country, discussing the findings and sharing the evidence for facility-based KMC with key maternal and newborn health stakeholders and agreeing on a clear plan of action and sources of resources to introduce and/or expand KMC services in the country. Guidance on setting up effective training, supportive supervision and monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure quality implementation are also described. A framework developed by the “Born Too Soon” preterm care group for critical pathway analysis for the implementation KMC at country level would also be described.



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Dr. Joseph de Graft-Johnson has worked in international public health for over 25 years in Africa, the Caribbean and in Asia. He currently serves as the Newborn Team Leader on the USAID global maternal and newborn health flagship program, Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program, MCHIP. He provides technical support to a number of maternal and newborn health programs in developing countries, assisting to scale-up proven and effective facility and community-based newborn health interventions.

Joseph has collaborated with colleagues to introduce and expand Kangaroo Mother Care for management of preterm births low birth weight babies in over 8 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, and continue to be a strong advocate for this intervention.

