

Project update Year 1

September 2012

Background

Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals has been highly uneven. To make things worse, effective interventions are known, but rarely reach the most in need. Unfortunately, little is known about how to effectively reach poor and otherwise disadvantaged groups, and how to address socio-economic inequalities in mortality.

EquiNaM is an ESRC-DFID funded project that aims to build evidence to support an equitable improvement in newborn and maternal health in Asia and Africa. We (i) generate evidence using high-quality data and randomised controlled trials and (ii) learn from and engage with stakeholders to support the uptake of our newly generated evidence base. The project will run from July 2011 to June 2014. This document provides an overview of activities in year 1.



Research

By using data from large demographic surveillance sites and randomised controlled trials of participatory women's groups, our project provides detailed evidence on the magnitude and determinants of socio-economic inequalities in newborn mortality, and contributes to the evidence base on what works to reduce them.

Programme incidence analysis

Programme-incidence analysis, following Gwatkin (2003) determines “the distribution of programme outputs across socio-economic groups within the population that the programmes serve”. In the context of the women's group interventions that we study, we examine socio-economic and socio-demographic inequalities in women's group attendance.



All 6 sites in Asia and Africa have finalized their quantitative analyses and are collecting qualitative data to help explain the findings. A cross-site publication is expected in year 2.

Inequalities in essential newborn practices

The South Asian sites have conducted quantitative analyses on socio-economic inequalities in essential newborn practices. A cross-site publication is expected in year 2 of the project.



For more information and to download project outputs visit the EquiNaM website:

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

Research training

In February 2012 EquiNaM held a Stata training and working meeting for its Quantitative Working Group team members. Nine participants worked intensively for five days, among others on their Programme Incidence analysis (see above). A second Quantitative Working Group meeting was held on 2 October 2012 in Kathmandu, to work on the analyses on inequalities in newborn practices. The trainings were sponsored by a Wellcome Trust Strategic Grant.



Stata training and working meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal

Stakeholder engagement

We actively engage with and learn from stakeholders, drawing on their experiential evidence regarding what works to ensure an equitable improvement of newborn and maternal health. Through ongoing engagement activities, we also seek to increase the awareness among those in power of the problem of large inequalities in maternal and newborn mortality and how best to address this problem.

Reaching out to stakeholders

A project website has been designed <http://equinam.global-health-inequalities.info/>, from which a project information sheet (in English, Nepali and Hindi) and a project PPT presentation can be downloaded. The project has been announced on various external websites (see EquiNaM website).

Learning from stakeholders

Policy-makers and practitioners have valuable experience of what does and does not work to reduce health inequalities. Unfortunately, this tacit knowledge is rarely written up and shared. Additional funding was obtained from the DSA-DFID New Ideas Initiative to collect, synthesize, and share experiential evidence of a large group of stakeholders with real-life experience in policy-making and implementation.

We conducted 7 roundtable discussions in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Malawi and 11 in-depth interviews, with international stakeholders, including health policy analysts, medical experts, funders, national and international NGO heads, and government representatives.



Round table meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The findings of the stakeholder consultations have been summarised in a policy brief and an interview and round table report, which can be downloaded from the EquiNaM website.

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You can also contact one of the project partners (see project website).

Project partners

