

EquiNaM

building evidence to support equitable improvement
in newborn and maternal health

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. The project will run between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2014.

Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been highly uneven. Poor and otherwise disadvantaged groups lag behind their more fortunate compatriots for most MDGs. To make things worse, effective interventions are known, but rarely reach those who need them most. Unfortunately, little is known about how to effectively reach poor and otherwise disadvantaged groups, and how to address socio-economic inequalities in mortality.

EquiNaM uses an integrated approach to support equitable improvement in newborn and maternal health, by (i) **generating evidence** using high-quality data, and (ii) **learning from and engaging with stakeholders**.

We aim to fill these gaps by **building evidence** on (1) how socio-economic inequalities translate into inequalities in maternal and newborn mortality, (2) how to address the exclusion of lower socio-economic groups from efforts to achieve the MDGs, and (3) how to reduce socio-economic inequalities in newborn and maternal mortality.

Data from 6 surveillance sites in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Malawi are used (combined population > 2 million). Information on birth outcomes, socio-

economic position, health care use and home care practices are used to describe and explain mortality inequalities. Data from randomized controlled trials of women's group interventions are used to evaluate the equity impact of community mobilisation.

We are also actively **learning from and engaging with stakeholders**, drawing on their experiential evidence regarding what works to ensure an equitable improvement in newborn and maternal health.

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Visit the EquiNaM website:

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

Project partners:

- UCL Centre for International Health and Development, London, UK
- Ekjut, Chakradharpur, India
- Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action (SNEHA), Mumbai, India
- Perinatal Care Project (PCP), Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS), Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Mother and Infant Research Activities (MIRA), Kathmandu, Nepal
- MaiMwana, Mchinji, Malawi
- Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands

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