



Key Messages for Safe Deliveries in Tanzania

In Tanzania about 46% of women deliver at a health facility under the care of a skilled attendant. The assumption is that all facility-based deliveries are assisted by skilled attendants which may not be the case in all situations. A combination of appropriately skilled and well equipped maternal health workforce, working with supportive infrastructure and referral systems is the key to successful reduction of maternal and newborn mortality, guaranteeing mothers and newborns in Tanzania, sustained, quality care whenever it is needed. This brief highlights key issues and messages distilled from a study conducted by the ECSCA Health Community and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, United Republic of Tanzania.

- **Knowledge and skills gaps in newborn care represent a grave pitfall in addressing newborn survival and could retard the progress in reducing maternal and newborn deaths.**

- **Adopt innovative approaches in training service providers to address skills gaps in newborn care**

- **Low knowledge and skills gaps in key procedures in child birth across all cadres make it difficult to guarantee provision of consistent quality care for women delivering in health facilities.**

- **Adopt innovative approaches in training of service providers to address knowledge and skills gaps in all key components of the delivery process.**

- **Inconsistent availability of life-saving drugs such as uterotonics and magnesium sulphate at health centre and dispensary levels severely hampers provision of much needed care for safe delivery.**

- **Mechanisms should be established to ensure adequate supply of these drugs at all levels permitted by policy and guidelines for their use disseminated to all health facilities**

- **Infrastructure limitations in terms of transport, communications and equipment for maternal and newborn care directly limit health workers effectiveness, and compromise the referral chain in provision of these services**

- **Improve facilities capacity for maternal and newborn care through provision of fully functional transport, communications and equipment to support referral infrastructure at all levels.**

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