



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR

Strengthening Health Systems for Newborn Survival and Development in India

BETWEEN

UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUNDS (UNICEF)

AND

NATIONAL NEONATOLOGY FORUM (NNF) India

AKD COMYI
25/11/20

1 | Page
LBSRanti
25/11/2020

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING for (Purpose of MOU) (together with any annexes, this "Memorandum of Understanding"), is made:

BETWEEN: UNICEF, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND, an international inter-governmental organization established by the General Assembly of the United Nations, having its office in New Delhi, Lodhi Rd, Near 73, Lodhi Gardens, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi, Delhi 110003.

AND: National Neonatology Forum (NNF), an organization established and registered under the laws of India, having its office in New Delhi (803, 8th Floor, Block A-9, Northex Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, Delhi-110034), together with UNICEF the "Parties" and each one of them a "Party").

Preamble

As part of the MoU, the two parties agree to a continued cooperation, with the aim of mutually contributing to strengthening health systems for newborn survival and well being in the country. The parties plan to do so through: 1. Joint advocacy and technical assistance for the design and sustained implementation of policies and programs for newborn health as a national priority; 2. joint support to health workforce capacity development (with focus on nursing and midwifery cadre for clinical practice guidelines and quality care standards); 3. generating contextual evidence, knowledge exchange and promoting unified national monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning (MERL) for maternal and newborn health and nutrition; and 4. through systems strengthening for quality accreditation of health care facilities and interventions for maternal and newborn care, to end preventable newborn deaths and improve care beyond survival to achieve SDGs and INAP 2030 Goals.

The two parties recognize their complementary strengths and the potential to achieve significant value-added results for newborns and efficiencies in national newborn care program delivery with such cooperation. Special attention will be given to actions to reach the most vulnerable population groups at risk of being left behind, especially the girl child, strengthening primary health care for universal quality newborn care and consolidating the parties' organizational capacities to support the national newborn survival and development goals.

Areas of Collaboration

1. Advocacy, policy, and planning for the survival of newborns and the reduction of preventable stillbirths

AKD - ED/ARI
25/11/20

2 | Page
LRB Ranti
20/11/2020

- Advocacy, policy and planning support to GoI, NITI Aayog, MoHFW, and state governments for improving maternal and newborn survival and health and for preventing stillbirths, in line with WHO guidelines and with the recommendations of the India Newborn Action Plan (INAP), and through the strengthening of the primary health care for universal access to quality newborn care
- Advocacy and support for the intensification of Early Childhood Development (ECD) through the care of newborns beyond survival - First 1000 Days (sixth pillar of the INAP), specifically:
 - Newborn care and District Early Intervention Centres (DEIC) linkages for newborn screening; and
 - Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Young Child Care (HBYC), focusing on pre-term babies and on Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) discharged neonates.

2. COVID-19 Response and Health System Resilience

- Contribute to sustained continuity of quality essential maternal and newborn health services during COVID-19 response, through development of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs), in collaboration with the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Societies of India (FOGSI), and Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP)
- Support monitoring of survival and health outcomes of newborns and mothers during COVID-19 response

3. Quality of Care

- Support implementation of the WHO standards for respectful, effective maternal and newborn care, including prevention of stillbirths and care after death, and have a system for learning from experience
 - Promoting and supporting the uptake of standards for improving the quality of care for small and sick newborns in health facilities
- Continued advocacy and support for the inclusion of Point of Care Continuous Quality Improvement (POCCQI) principles in pre-service and in-service training of health care professionals
- Support review and updating the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) to include the NNF Facility Based Newborn Care (FBNC quality accreditation standards) integrating NNF Accreditation criteria developed in 2008-09 with support from UNICEF and use pool of assessors in states.

4. Health workforce

- Advocacy and support for planning and implementing of strategies to increase the number, distribution, mentoring, and retention of personnel for maternal and newborn health and to enhance their competence for respectful maternal and newborn care, prevention of stillbirths, and care after death

3 | Page

AKD CORAN
25/11/20

LBKant
25/11/2020

- Intensify alliances with the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP), Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Society of India (FOGSI), Indian Society of Perinatology and Reproductive Biology (ISOPARB), Society of Midwives of India (SOMI), Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI), and Indian Association of Neonatal Nurses (IANN) to enhance and strengthen the network of Newborn Resuscitation Program (NRP) trained Professionals across the country using NSSK plus programme .

5. Medical commodities and technologies for newborn care

- Evidence-informed advocacy for timely procurement, equitable distribution, and access, appropriate use of essential medical commodities and products (equipment, technologies, and diagnostics) to facilitate the delivery of high-quality, affordable maternal and newborn care, including care to prevent stillbirths – e.g., rational scale-up of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) in Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs)
- Promote the use of information and communication technology (ICT) for capacity building, mentoring; and supportive supervision of newborn care health workforce

6. Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL)

- Joint technical assistance, advocacy and deployment of and support systems for routinely tracking, collecting, and using data to monitor coverage, equity and quality targets for newborn mortality and stillbirths..
- Support addressing gaps in routine data systems through surveys or assessments of service readiness, including consideration of gender and other inequalities at national and sub-national levels.
- Contribute to generating and using emerging evidence, including through knowledge exchange, and promoting a unified MERL agenda for newborn health and nutrition to improve newborn health and survival, in close collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), FOGSI, IAP, TNAI, SOMI, IANN
- Develop and updating regularly the Clinical Practice Guidelines for effective implementation of best newborn care practices

7. Promote social accountability for newborn survival and development

- Support states in convening and coordinating stakeholders for development and implementation of accountability mechanisms to improve newborn health and prevent stillbirths, including processes to count and review deaths / near-miss / stillbirths, and empowering frontline health care workers and communities to generate demand for quality care and to promote a positive shift in social norms that are potentially harmful to newborns.

AKDEODAYI
25/11/20

LIBHARTI
25/11/2020

Parties' Roles and Responsibilities

For UNICEF:

UNICEF will convene multi-sectoral teams from the India Country office and 13 field offices to align the Rolling Workplan's actions for 2021-2022¹ to achieve desired goals as per MoU.

For National Neonatology Forum (NNF):

National Neonatology Forum (NNF) will convene the NNF central and state unit memberships and partner actively with the respective UNICEF state office teams to achieve desired goals as per MoU.

Expiration, Modification, and Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding will expire on 31st December 2022.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified only by mutual agreement of the Parties in writing, which shall be set out as an Annex hereto and incorporated as an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding. Such Annexes shall be signed by the Parties and shall enter effect as of the date of signature by all the Parties.

Either Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding without cause upon sixty (60) days' written notice to the other and may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding for cause upon fourteen (14) days' written notice to the other Party.

Notification

Any public communication to be made by the parties, on the scope of the Memorandum of Understanding or its purposes, shall be made only subject to all the signatories' written concurrence and knowledge.

Entry into Force

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon the date of signing by the two Parties and will continue in full force and effect until (Expiry date) or terminated.

Resolution of Differences

The Parties will use their best efforts to promptly settle through direct negotiations, controversy, or claim arising out of or connected with this Memorandum of

¹ Rolling Workplan of the 2018-2022 India Country Program Document

AKD *coraxi*
25/11/20

LRBhanti
25/11/2020

Understanding or any breach thereof. Suppose no agreement can be reached within thirty (30) days. In that case, the dispute, controversy, or claim will be decided by the representatives from UNICEF India Country Office and National Neonatology Forum (NNF), meeting together, in person or otherwise, to consider the matter.

Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in or related to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be deemed a waiver, either express or implied, of any of the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and UNICEF under the Convention of the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, the Basic Cooperation Agreement, or otherwise.

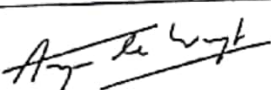
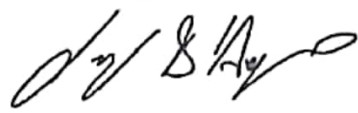
Use of Emblem /Logo

The parties shall use the logo / emblem of each other on activities related to the Memorandum of Understanding with mutual agreement.



Copies

This Memorandum of Understanding is drawn up in two identical versions with the same content, each Party being granted with one original.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund

By:  Name: Arjan De Wagt Title: Deputy Representative Programs, UNICEF, India Country Office Date: 12 November 2020	By:  Name: Luigi D'Aquino Title: Chief of Health, UNICEF, India Country Office Date: 11 November 2020
---	--

NNF, the National Neonatology Forum

By:  Name: Dr. Ashok Kumar Deorari Title: President, National Neonatology Forum Date: 25/11/2020	By:  Name: Dr. Lalan Kumar Bharati Title: Secretary, National Neonatology Forum Date: 25/11/2020
--	---