India experience in Care of Newborn

Dr. Ajay Khera
Commissioner (MCH)
Public Health Specialist
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Government of India
India Newborn Action Plan (INAP) launched in 2014, with target to reduce both still birth rate and NMR to single digit

Life cycle approach with six pillars

Health system strengthening with Universal health coverage

Element of community interventions and engagement

Addressing both Survive & Thrive agenda.

Approach to Newborn Health

- Pre-conception & Antenatal Care
- Care during labour & childbirth
- Immediate newborn care
- Care of healthy newborn
- Care of small & sick newborn
- Care beyond survival

Across family and community level & facility
Care of Small and Sick newborn

• Started Special (Sick) Newborn Care unit at District level on a pilot basis and expanded to all districts with establishment of 12-24 bedded unit at District level.

• Establishment of Newborn Stabilization Units at Sub-district level to provide immediate care to sick newborn

• Admitting more than 1 million sick and small newborn per year with less than 10% mortality in these units. More than 90% SNCUs are reporting online

• Special 14 days skill based training package followed by mentoring – KMC, supporting breastfeeding and introduced Family Participatory Care
• Follow-up arrangements for SNCU discharge newborns
• Birth defects and developmental screening initiated
• Linkage with Early Intervention centres for follow-up
• Use of Antenatal Corticosteroids for pre-term birth
• Use of Inj. Gentamycin by ANMs for management of sepsis in young infants in the community including Pre-referral dose
Care of Small and Sick newborn

- > 850 Special units newborn care units (SNCUs) across the country
- > 16000 Neonatal beds for 24*7 comprehensive care of small & sick newborns
- 10,000 trained Providers & > 3000 support staff
- 90% SNCUs report online and real time data available
- > 1.1 Million newborns treated annually at SNCUs
- Newborn Stabilization Units (NBSU) at First Referral level- 5,400 beds for small & sick newborn, 350 K admissions
• Started in 2011, to improve newborn care practices and identify sick newborn at earliest.
• Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) carried out 6 home visit up to 42 days of delivery.
• About 12 million newborns visited per year
• Created demand generation for availing newborn services
• Mother and Child Protection Card developed with key messages on nutrition, developmental milestones and care of newborn
Lessons Learned

• Political commitment and investment of domestic resources
• Facility Based Newborn Care at district level through capacity building/ mentoring support through institutional collaboration
• SNCU Online helped in evidence based program management
• Engaging families in care of sick newborn
• Home Based visits as a game changer for improving newborn rearing practices
Way Forward

- Promoting nurturing care and Zero separation of mother and Newborn (Mother Newborn Care Units) including strengthening Kangaroo mother care
- Screening for retinopathy of pre-maturity, birth defects, in-born error metabolism
- Establishment of Comprehensive Lactation Management Units with dedicated Breastfeeding Counselors for care of Pre term births including accreditation of delivery points as Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives
- Ayushman Bharat - enabling India to achieve goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by involving private sector
The true strength of Pre-mature baby’s fighting spirit can never be measured by weight, length or gestation age (Survive and Thrive)

Thank You