

Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa

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Giving girls and women the power to decide

Access to information and services for contraception and birth spacing are critical to maternal and child health programming. It is no surprise then, that IDRC is supporting research in sub-Saharan Africa to investigate emerging questions and to propose ways to improve the reproductive health of women and adolescents. Read an IDRC [Perspectives article](#) by Montasser Kamal, the program leader of the Maternal and Child program.

Research in action

A community approach for improving maternal health

The delivery of new surgical equipment to the General Hospital of Marrere, Mozambique earlier this year was an important step for improving maternal and child health. It was also a milestone in the implementation of a research project led by *Universidade Lúrio* in Mozambique and the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, funded through the IMCHA initiative. Securing the equipment needed for emergency obstetrical care is just one of the many project interventions underway to reduce maternal and newborn mortality.



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News

IMCHA health policy and research organization ranked among the top global health think tanks

The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) has been ranked among the top global think tanks by the Lauder Institute's Think Tanks and Civil Society Program. APHRC is the only African institution to be ranked among the top 20 influential think tanks providing superior research and analyses on domestic health issues. APHRC was also ranked among the top 30 worldwide for its work in global health policy and advocacy.

APHRC is part of IMCHA's East Africa Health Policy and Research Organization, a consortium that works with the implementation research teams to integrate evidence into policies and practices in maternal and child health in the targeted countries.

Read the [2017 Global Go To Think Tank Index report](#)

Major events highlight the importance of civil registration and vital statistics systems

The Centre of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems convened two international events at IDRC in Ottawa from February 26-28, 2018.

Approximately 100 technical experts and policymakers attended [Making the Invisible Visible: CRVS as a basis to meeting the 2030 Gender Agenda](#). At the second event, [Harnessing the power: CRVS systems for](#)

[2030 Global Agendas](#), co-hosted by the Centre of Excellence, WHO, and UNICEF, 125 participants discussed the current status and use of innovations and new and emerging approaches and technologies in CRVS.

Prabhat Jha and Mireille Gomes, two researchers from IMCHA's [community-based cause of death study in Ethiopia](#), participated in the event and facilitated an innovation lab on modern data analytics.

Featured publications

Donor-funded project's sustainability assessment: a qualitative case study of a results-based financing pilot in Koulikoro region, Mali

This article investigates the sustainability of a pilot results-based financing project in Mali. Researchers interviewed 49 stakeholders, including project implementers, health practitioners, and administrators in six community health centres and two referral health centres. The results identified several factors that affect sustainability and provided insights for improving result-based financing mechanisms.

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Maternal death review and outcomes: An assessment in Lagos State, Nigeria

This article investigates the results of maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response in three referral hospitals in Lagos State. The results show high maternal mortality ratio in the hospitals from January 2015 to September 2016. The leading obstetric causes of death included eclampsia, primary post-partum hemorrhage, obstructed labour, and puerperal sepsis. Delay in treatment, poor use of treatment protocols, lack of equipment, and the lack of skills required to use available equipment were the leading facility-related causes of death.

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Innovating for Maternal and Child Health

The Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa initiative seeks to improve maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes by strengthening health systems, using primary healthcare as an entry point. This seven-year, \$36 million initiative is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Global Affairs Canada, and IDRC.

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