

AUTHORS:

Lidia Chongo (National Public Health Deputy Director); Maria da Luz Vaz (MCHIP Technical Director) and Verónica Reis (MCHIP Senior Technical Advisor).

OBJECTIVE: To describe the results in improving quality, respectful/humanized care for mothers and newborns in Mozambique.

METHODS: The Government of Mozambique has been undertaken significant efforts to reduce the maternal and newborn mortality rates in order to achieve MDG 4 and 5 targets by 2015. Among these efforts, in 2009 the MoH started implementing a package of interventions to improve the quality and humanization of maternal and newborn care through the Model Maternity Initiative (MMI), aiming to transform the selected Maternities into centers of quality and humanized/respectful care and teaching centers.

RESULTS and CONCLUSIONS:

Through the MMI, Mozambican mothers and newborns have benefited from continuous care that: centers on the individual; emphasizes the fundamental rights of the mother, newborn and families; promotes birthing practices that recognize women's preferences and needs, focuses on humanistic care, and provides evidence-based high-impact interventions to reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. This initiative utilizes the Jhpiego Standard Based Management and Recognition approach, focusing on the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reward of quality standards in 9 areas. The MMI has been a vehicle to provide better quality and humanized care for mothers and newborns in the country's largest maternities in Mozambique. The number of maternities included in this initiative as of 2013 is 95 (currently accounting for 35% of all institutional deliveries in the country). Several key indicators have shown significant improvement since initiating the MMI: since 2009, the percentage of newborns with immediate skin-to-skin contact has risen from 0% to 84%; the percentage of newborns breastfed in the first hour has risen from 0% to 83%; the percentage of women with a family companion during delivery has risen from 0% to 52%; and the percentage of deliveries in a vertical/semi-vertical position has risen from 0% to 31%.