



Myanmar

Neonatal and Paediatric Emergency Care Programme

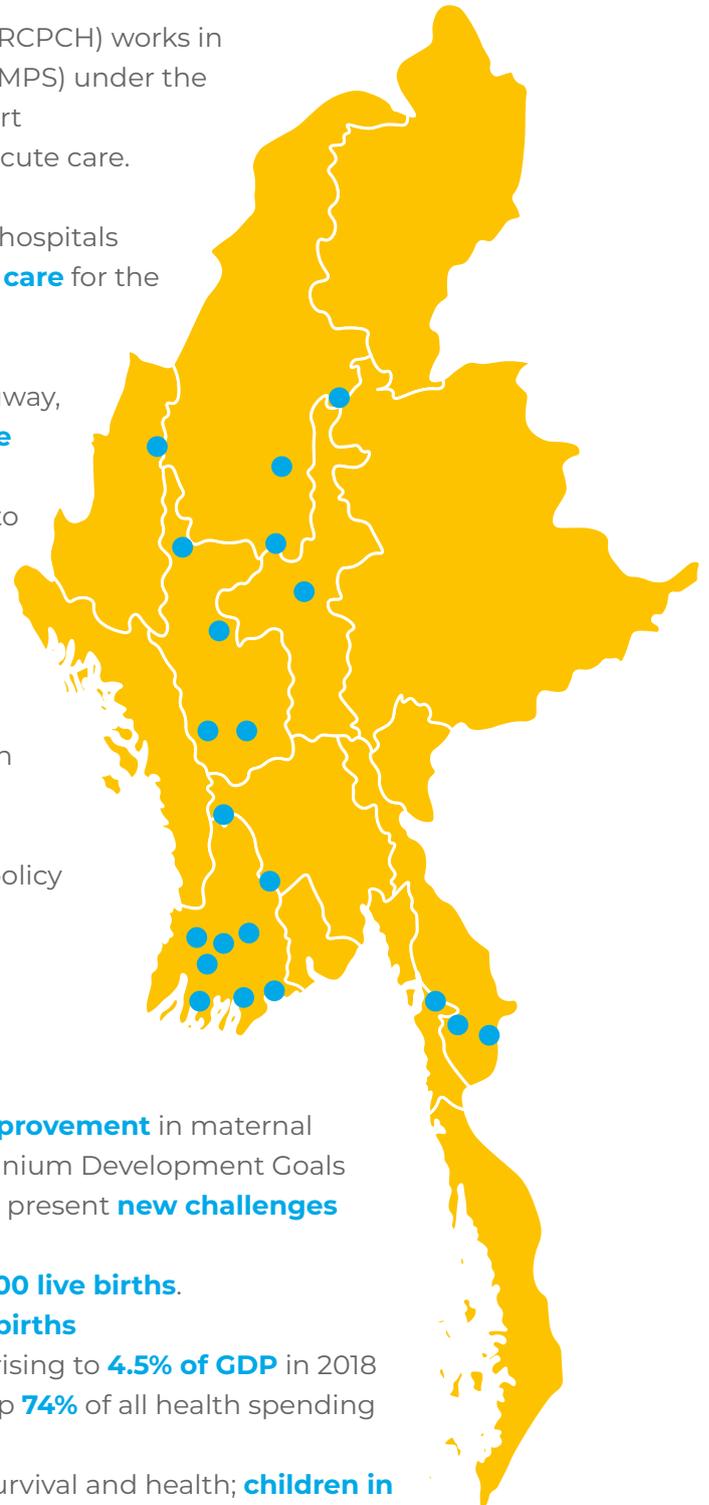
Myanmar: Neonatal and Paediatric Emergency Care Programme

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) works in partnership with the Myanmar Paediatric Society (MPS) under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Sports to support **quality improvement** in neonatal and paediatric acute care.

We work in 21 regional and district secondary care hospitals – the most accessible centre of **expert paediatric care** for the majority of Myanmar’s population.

Our programme covers four regions (Sagaing, Magway, Ayeyarwady & Kayin) reinforcing the **quality of care delivered at the bedside** and **building a ‘learning network’** among participating hospitals. We help to **strengthen the wider system of referral** to tertiary and specialist care.

We support consolidation of **nursing** through paediatric specialisation; we assist the national process of modernising medical education through development of **workplace-based learning** and assessment methodologies; we advance wider child health through support to **child protection** policy and practice.

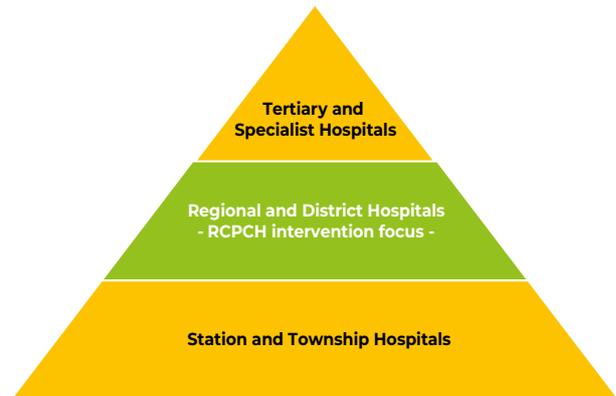


Myanmar health statistics

- The last two decades have seen **significant improvement** in maternal and child survival in Myanmar under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) but the Sustainable Development Goals present **new challenges** for the country.
- Under-5 mortality stands at **46.2 (2018) per 1,000 live births**.
- Neonatal mortality is **23.1 (2018) per 1,000 live births**
- Government health expenditure is increasing, rising to **4.5% of GDP** in 2018
- But out-of-pocket health expenditure makes up **74%** of all health spending
- 70% of the population **lives in rural areas**
- There is significant regional variation in child survival and health; **children in rural Ayeyarwady** are **more than twice as likely to die** before age five than their peers in the Yangon region

Structure of health care system and workforce

- In total, **16,292** medical doctors and **36,054** nurses working in **1,134** public hospitals
- **0.9** nurses and midwives per 1,000 people
- **0.6** physicians per 1,000 – significantly below WHO recommended threshold
- Wide **regional disparity** in both number and specialisation of the health workforce

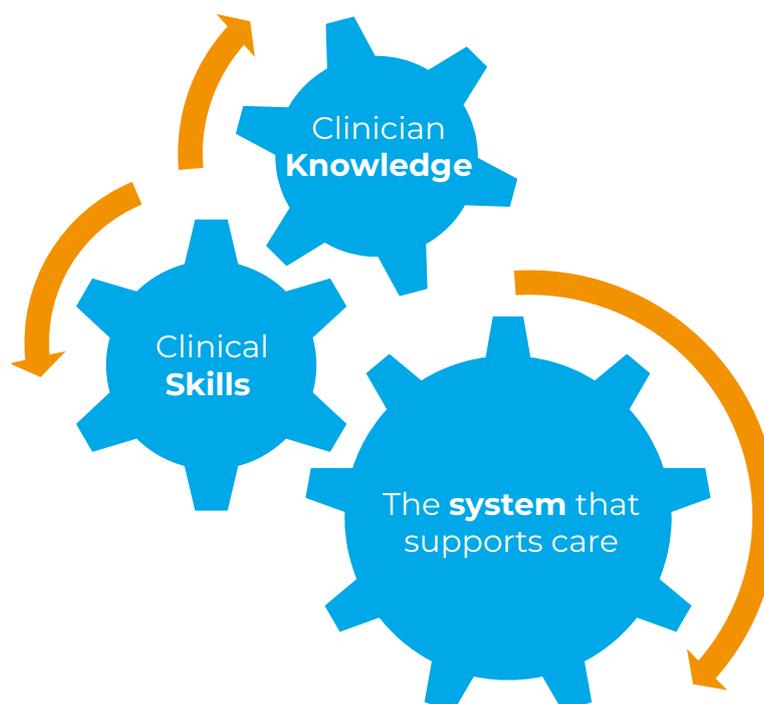


RCPCH Global strategy

RCPCH Global works in long-term partnership with the Myanmar Paediatric Society (MPS), the national professional body, supporting the Ministry of Health and Sports in delivering a national strategy for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, focusing on the development of human resources in the clinical workforce, on leadership in health system management, building on key strengths in the context of the country.

Programme ethos

We know that interventions focusing purely on knowledge transfer and course-based training have limited impact on health worker capability and motivation, health service delivery, and improving child health outcomes. Knowledge is a vital component, but practice will only change by the enablement of bedside clinical skills within a system that allows evidence-based practice to be implemented.



High-quality hospital care...

- Developing hospital quality systems
- Supported by expert clinicians
- With the active engagement of parents as care providers

Within a hospital network...

- Sharing common challenges and practical solutions through regional hospital 'clusters'
- Systematising standards of care and referral - getting the right patient to the right place at the right time

Supported by national standards...

- Implementing agreed national guidelines
- Mentoring practice development
- Advancing specialisation of medical and nursing staff

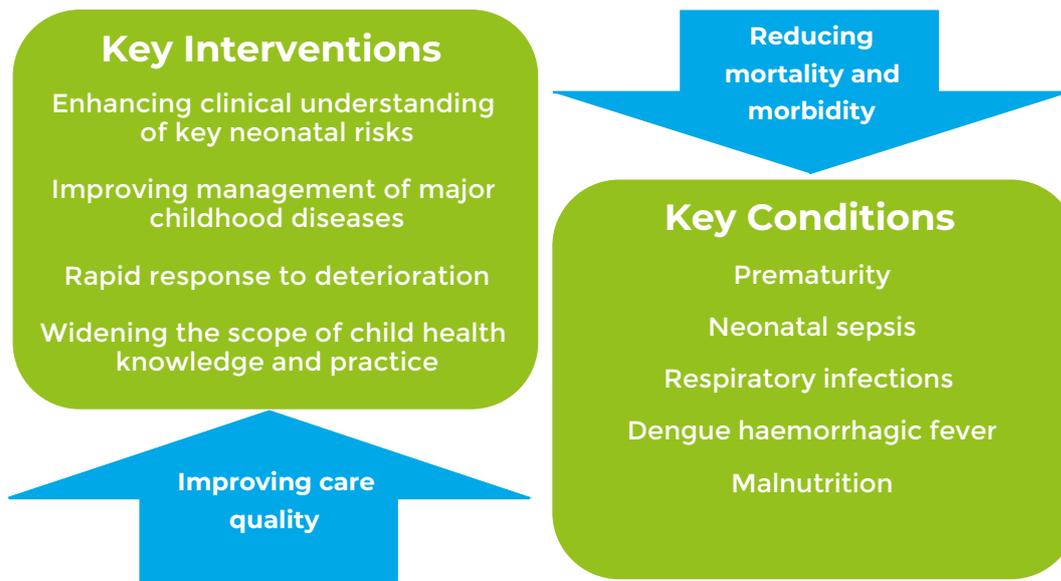
Evidenced through systematic evaluation...

- Developing health information systems, data collection, and critical analysis skills
- To inform practice assessment and improvement
- Building national health data capabilities and evidence-driven care



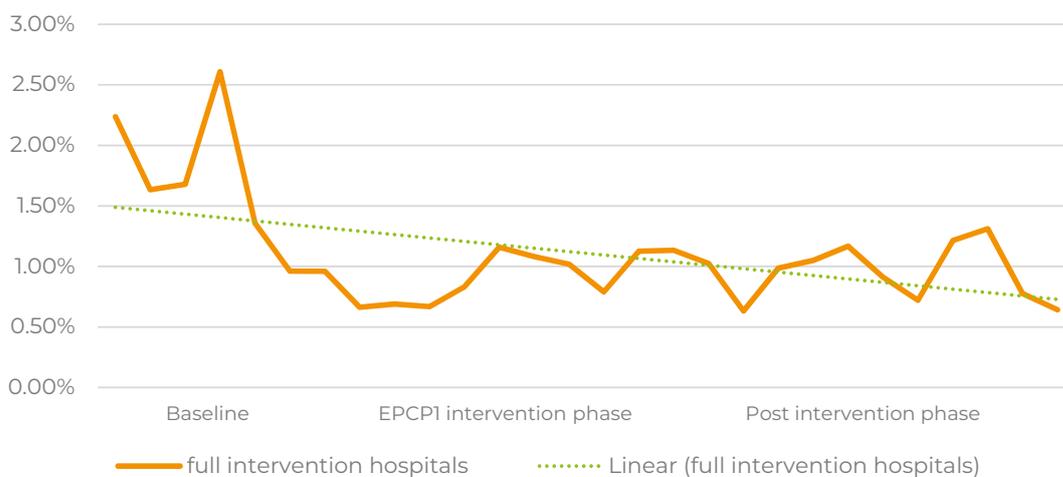
Programme clinical focus areas

Our work shows that improvements in clinical practice are achievable and can have a significant effect in driving down neonatal and paediatric mortality and morbidity through changes which are cost-neutral or highly cost-efficient.



Our impact 2016-19

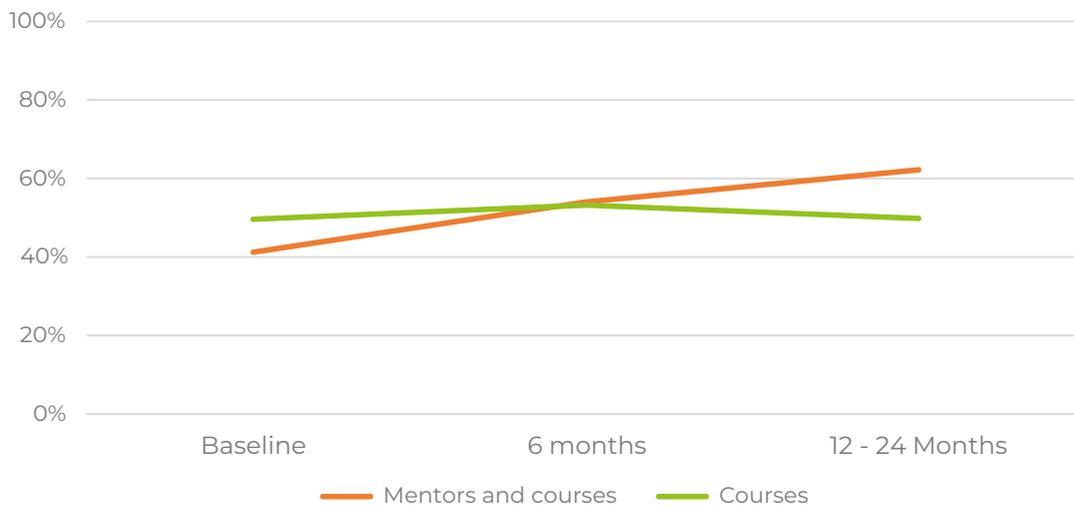
Under-5 mortality (as % of admissions, excluding <28 days), full intervention EPCP Hospitals (n=10)



Mortality

➤ Hospitals with a combined intervention of course-based training and sustained follow-up mentoring see a substantial reduction in paediatric deaths (p=0.005).

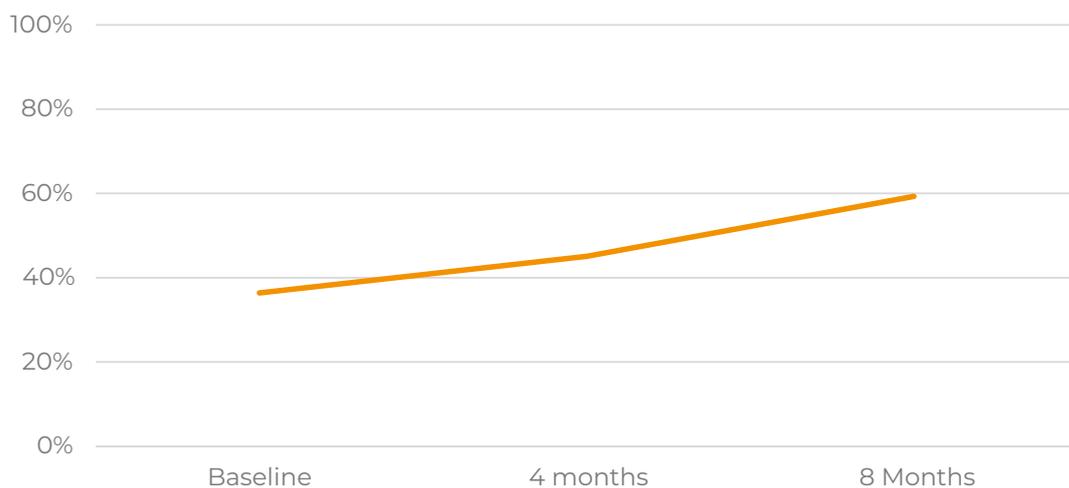
Care Quality: Neonatal sepsis, course+mentor vs course-only hospitals



Quality of clinical care

➤ Stronger and more sustained improvement in hospitals with combined course+mentoring approach (compared with course-based training intervention only)

Care Quality: % identified infants transferred within 24 hours (MNCP hospitals, Ayeyarwady Region, n=8)



Strengthening the network

➤ Speed of safe referral improves neonatal outcomes among newborns requiring higher-level care; significant increase in speed of newborn transfer (p=0.005)

In 2018 our work in Myanmar was awarded a **British Medical Journal** South Asia Award for **Excellence in Medical Education**.

Looking to the future

Working with MPS and the Ministry of Health and Sports, RCPCH Global aims to merge its current programmes in a single streamlined intervention supporting improvement in the quality of acute neonatal and paediatric care in secondary facilities in Myanmar. Our partnership programme will be, increasingly, led and delivered by Myanmar clinicians.

- We will continue to support participating programme hospitals to develop and sustain **high quality bedside neonatal and paediatric care**
- We will support each hospital to become its own **site of continuous learning, practice, assessment and improvement**, with facility-based clinical and administrative leadership
- We will build **horizontal communication and learning** between hospitals in the secondary level, through the formation of cluster networks, and strengthen technical support from the tertiary level
- We will support MPS in recruiting and deploying Myanmar-led **Quality Support Teams** to provide regular quality improvement visits to participating hospitals, building on each facility's tailored improvement plan
- We will work with MPS and other medical professional institutions to advance neonatal and paediatric **specialisation for doctors and nurses**, including both technical training and in-situ practical mentoring
- We will work with hospital leaders and systems to ensure the involvement of **parents in the care of their children** both during their admission and post-discharge in the community
- We will continue to **network** with governmental and non-governmental bodies in Myanmar to ensure coordination and sustainability of activities within the wider field of health system strengthening
- We will continue the development of tech-enabled **clinician decision-making support** through expansion of our mobile phone app and other web-based guidance



www.rcpch.ac.uk/global

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health ('RCPCH Global') designs and manages partnership programmes dedicated to improving clinical care and health outcomes for mothers, newborns, children and young people in low- and middle-income countries.

We support health system strengthening through enhancing health workforce capacity and quality improvement processes.

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