

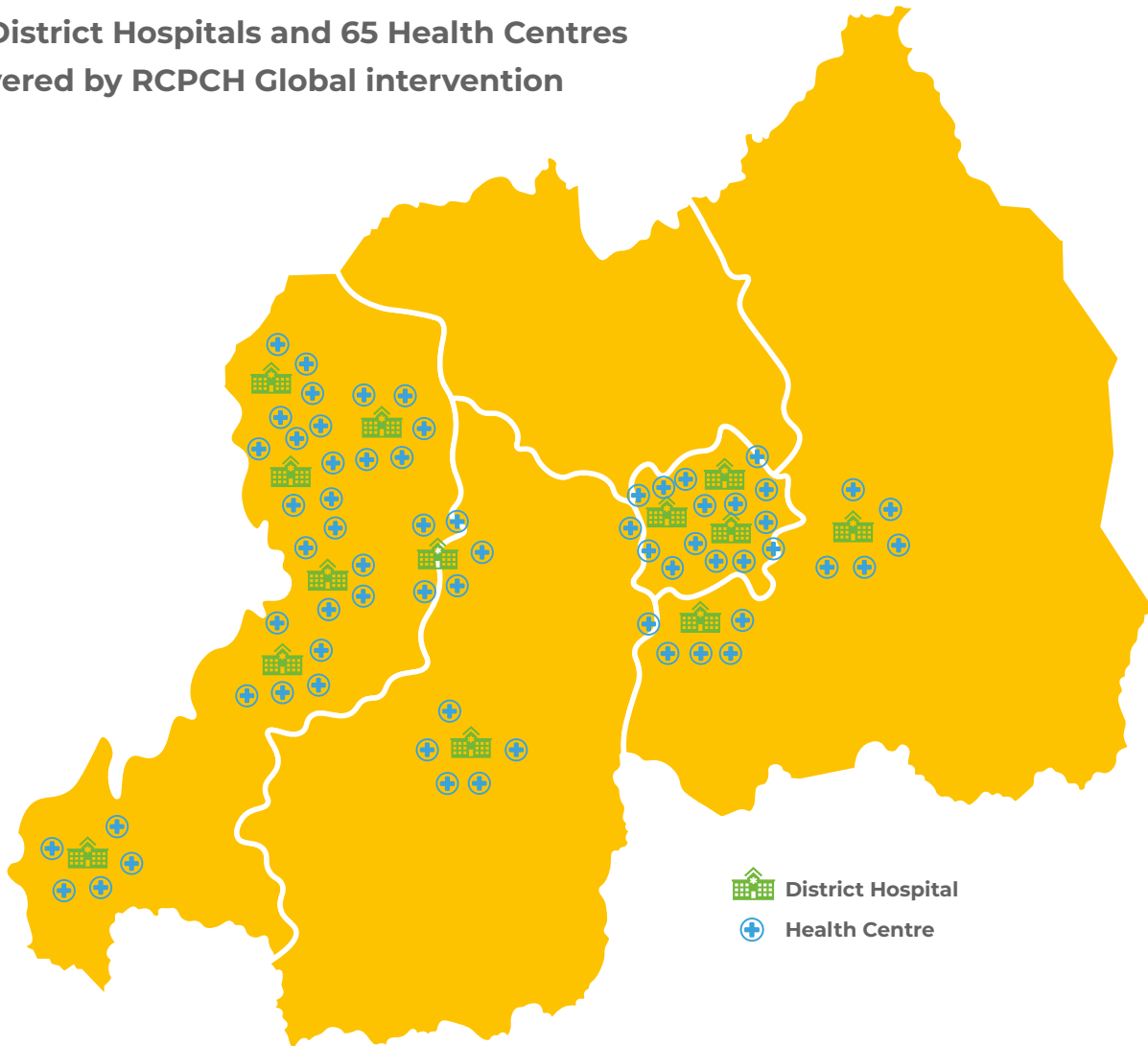
A stylized map of Rwanda is centered on the page. The map is filled with a solid orange color and has a thick, irregular border in a light green color. The background of the entire page is a solid, medium green color.

Rwanda

**Neonatal and Obstetric
Care Programme**

Rwanda: Neonatal and Obstetric Care Programme

13 District Hospitals and 65 Health Centres covered by RCPCH Global intervention

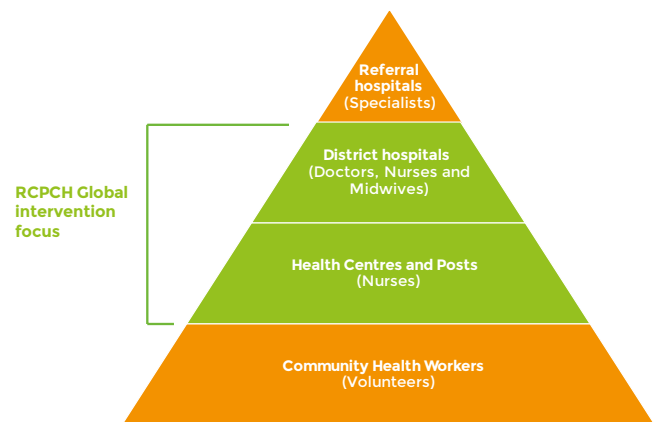


Rwanda health statistics (2016)

- **Significant achievement** of maternal and child survival Millennium Development Goals (MDG), but **new challenges** to reach Sustainable Development Goal 3
- Health expenditure **6.76% of GDP**
- Total expenditure on health per capita (intl \$): **48.1**
- Neonatal mortality **16.4 per 1,000 live births** (main causes: birth asphyxia and its complications, lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI), and 'and sequelae of prematurity)
- Under-5 mortality **37.9 per 1,000 live births**
- Maternal mortality **253 deaths per 100,000 live births** (main causes: postpartum haemorrhage and obstructed labour)
- Community health-based insurance ('mutuelles') covers **75% of eligible households**

Structure of health care system and workforce

- Functioning health facilities: **7 Referral Hospitals, 27 District Hospitals, 342 Health Centres & 385 Health Posts**
- **0.8** nurses and midwives and **0.064** physicians per 1000 people – significantly below WHO recommended threshold
- **97%** institutional delivery rate
- **75%** of neonatal deaths and 30% of maternal deaths occur at district hospital level
- **78%** of all deaths happen at district hospital level



RCPCH Global delivery model

Our strategy is to:

- Work with the **Ministry of Health** to support national child health strategy and contribute to improvement of national standards and guidelines
- Work in partnership with **local professional organisations** to deliver nationwide programmes
- Focus on **quality improvement** to strengthen the whole care system
- Support hospitals to strategise change, using our **Hospital Improvement Plan (HIP)** tool
- Build knowledge and skills through sustained in-situ **training and mentoring**
- Support improvements in **procurement, infrastructure** and hospital **leadership**
- Use **robust data** to identify gaps and monitor progress
- Focus on strengthening the role, capabilities and empowerment of **nurses and midwives**
- Build **hospital networks** sharing innovation and good practice



Programme clinical focus areas

The bubble-chart below sets out the core objectives of our work to date, and the range of factors which we aim to change and improve to achieve those objectives.

● Neonatal care programme

● Obstetric/midwifery programme

● Programme integration

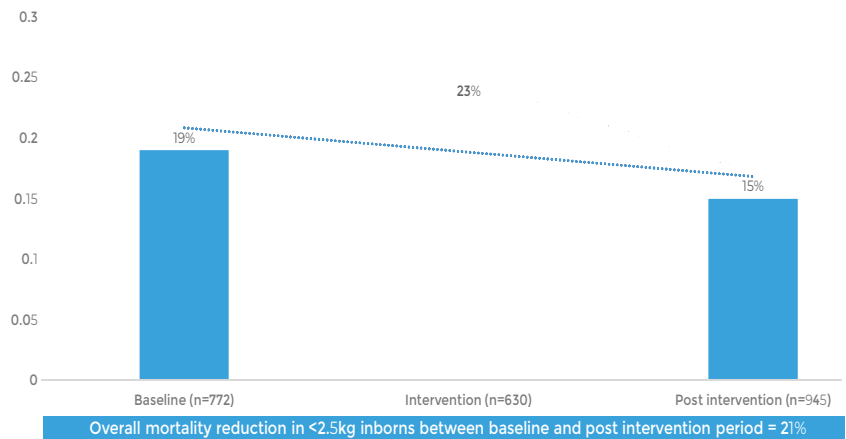


Impact to date

Mortality

- Statistically significant reduction in neonatal mortality of 21% ($p < 0.05$) over 24 months
- Reduction is more significant with small/sick inborn babies reflecting more accurately quality of care improvements directly linked to the implementation of the programme

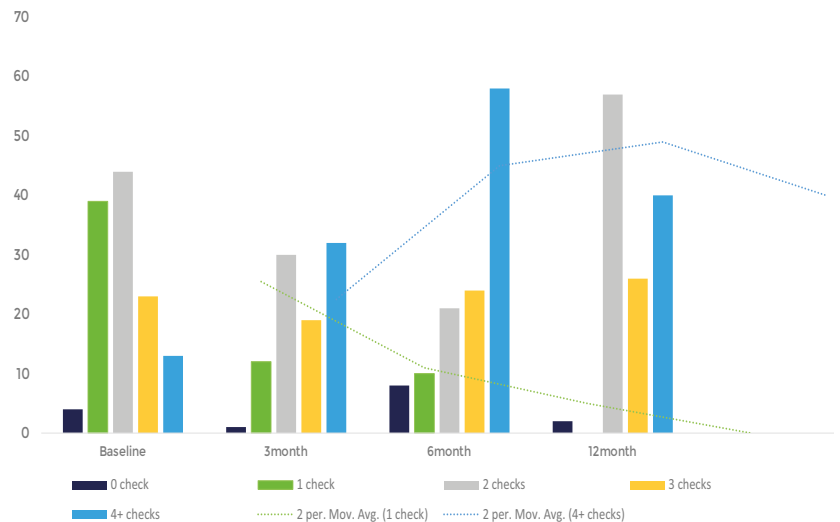
Mortality rate (as % of admissions), <2.5kg inborns, Phase I & II hospitals March 2017 to February 2019



Quality of care and leadership

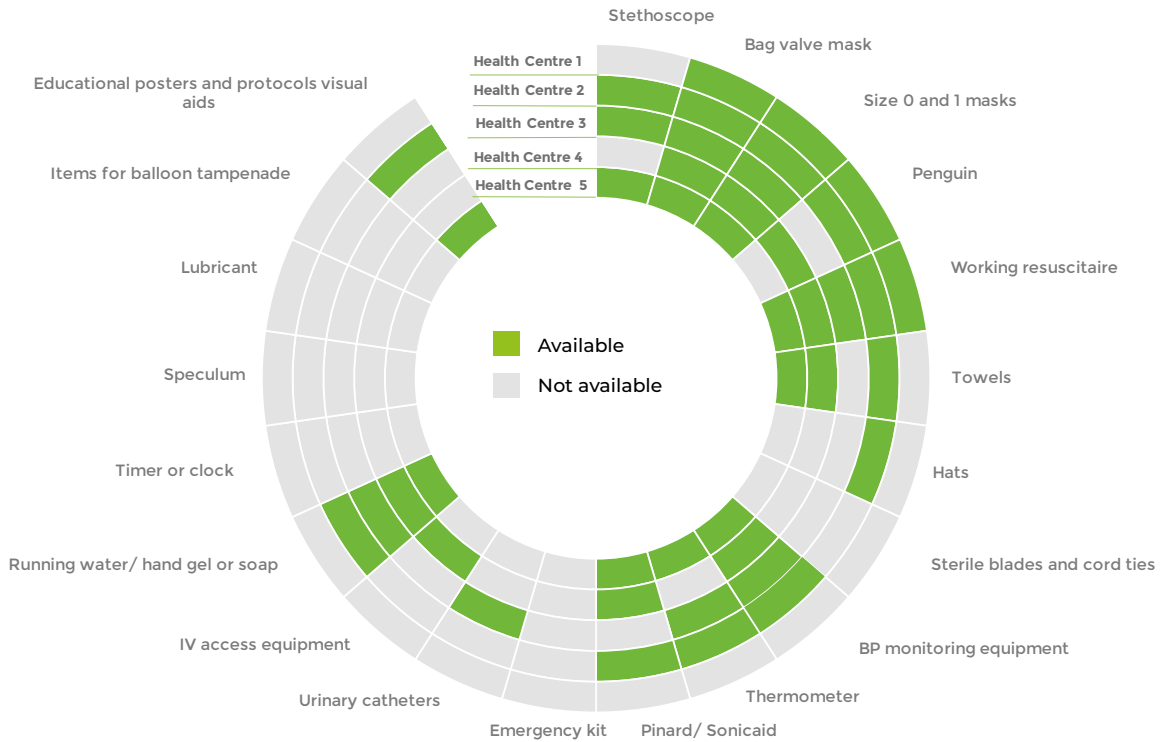
- Improvement in frequency of routine observation of newborns (temperature per 24 hours)
- Indicates a shift in nursing routine care practices with higher priority being given to vital checks for newborn infants
- Indicates positive and sustained change in the quality of the care delivered over 12 months

Frequency of temperature checks across Phase I & II hospitals (% n=6) (baseline to 12 months)

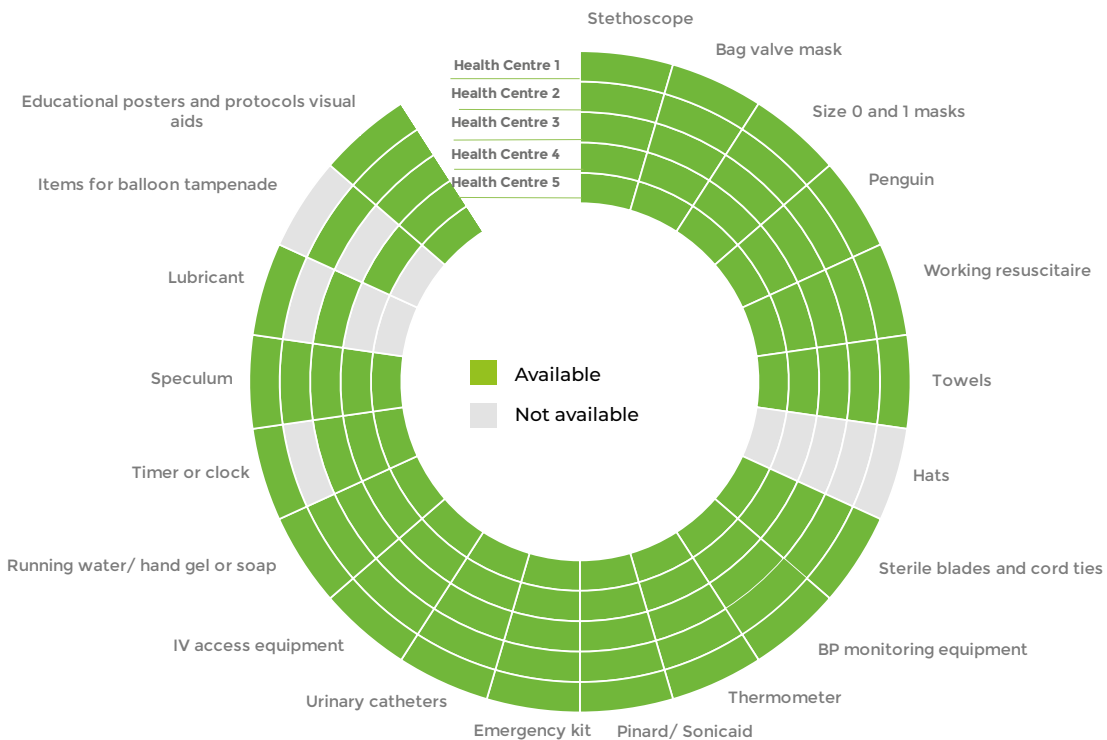


The 'donut' charts show how procurement and availability of critical equipment is changing at health centres involved in our programme.

Equipment availability baseline



Equipment availability re-audit at three months



Procurement:

- Increased availability of essential equipment
- Improved procurement system at facility level

Future development for Rwanda 2020-25

Building on the success of our Neonatal and Obstetric Care Programmes, we aim to integrate these with improved paediatric care to create an efficient quality improvement model for the continuum of maternal, perinatal and child health care in Rwandan Government Hospitals.

- **Support development of hospital and health centre clusters and networks** to facilitate exchange of challenges, innovative solutions and good practices
- **Establish hospital Quality Improvement Teams** (mandated by the MoH), to build sustainable facility-based QI capability
- Maintain **'light-touch' clinical support** alongside local professional organisations in current facilities
- Continue **networking** with other governmental and non-governmental bodies to ensure coordination, complementarity and sustainability of activities
- **Replicate the intervention** in other district hospitals/ health centres based on lessons learned and successes of current programme building towards a sustainable national facilities network
- **Refine and focus intervention on core high-impact clinical areas** (routine care, feeding, KMC, improved nurse-led care etc)
- Enhance production and use of facility **health information** for local planning and review, and strengthening central policy-level intelligence
- Extend the intervention to **include emergency paediatric care units** at District Hospital and Health Centre level
- **Cover complete continuum of care from perinatal care to adolescent health** through a quality improvement approach creating care efficiencies by linking maternity, neonatology, paediatric and out-patient departments



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.



**Royal College of
Paediatrics and Child Health**
Leading the way in Children's Health

©RCPCH 2019

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) is a registered charity in England and Wales (1057744) and in Scotland (SC038299).