**Where We Work:**

MSH has maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) activities in 32 sub-Saharan African countries, with offices in 20 of these countries. The countries that MSH conducts MNCH work in includes:

Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.

Newborn components exist within the majority of these African countries. For example, the following projects emphasize newborn care:

- *Reducing Child Morbidity and Strengthening Health Care Systems Program in Malawi*: From 2003-2007, this USAID project helped achieve marked reductions in newborn and childhood mortality and illness by strengthening the health system.


- *Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival (BASICS), Global*: BASICS, which started in 1999, conducts numerous activities to support newborn health. Examples include: advocacy to improve newborn health through participation in regional meetings and workshops, delivery with skilled birth attendants, counseling for early and exclusive breastfeeding, and promoting Essential Preventive Newborn Care (EPNC) practices (i.e., hygiene, temperature maintenance, cord and eye care, identification and referral for danger signs, and extra care for low birth weight babies).

**MSH’s Involvement and Approaches:**

MSH supports global partnerships that focus on mobilizing resources and expanding life-saving health care for newborns and children.

MSH is active in three partnerships worldwide:

- The Partnership for Child Health Care (implements BASICS)
- The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
- The US Coalition for Child Survival

MSH works with stakeholders to develop and strengthen newborn and child health policies in the following areas:

- national coordination and planning
- state-of-the-art strategies and guidelines
- health-sector reviews and evaluation

MSH works with ministries of health to scale up proven MNCH interventions and save lives. We work with key national stakeholders to ensure the delivery of health care services for newborns and children by:

- making skilled care during childbirth more available and ensuring postpartum follow-up of mother and newborn;
- promoting community-based treatment of common newborn and childhood illnesses such as pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria;
Dr. Iain Aitken: Supplementary notes on MSH’s work in Africa related to newborn care.

- implementing integrated delivery of essential newborn care within Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) programs;
- improving the quality of newborn and child health care in primary-care clinics as well as hospitals;
- expanding implementation of essential nutrition actions (ENA) within newborn and child health and education services, such as exclusive breastfeeding for six months followed by complementary feeding, as well as ensuring adequate vitamin A, iron and iodine intake;
- integrating healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy (HTSP) into newborn and child health care encounters;
- ensuring earlier diagnosis of HIV in newborns and children, and the receipt of life-saving preventions as well as necessary antiretroviral therapy, care, and support.

MSH strengthens health care delivery systems with special focus on:

- pharmaceutical and lab services;
- health care financing and performance-based contracting;
- leadership and management capacity-building;
- community-based case management;
- quality of care across the continuum from household and community through hospitals;
- results-based management and performance;
- public-private sector partnerships and strengthening the private sector;
- scaling up coverage for public health results and sustainability.

MSH strengthens the delivery of pharmaceutical services in both public and private sectors to ensure effective health care is delivered to newborns, children and women.

MSH ensures that essential MNCH services reach the most vulnerable women, newborns and children.

MSH helps governments develop essential health care services and rebuild health systems following conflict or disaster, ensuring that women, newborns and children receive life-saving care.

**How We Work**

MSH’s approach is to:

- mobilize global partnerships to focus donor strategies and attract international resources for MNCH;
- help countries create a coordinating framework for MNCH programs to strengthen planning, budgeting, and implementation by engaging, organizing, and focusing support from multiple stakeholders;
- increase access to essential maternal, newborn, and child health treatments through the development of community-based delivery systems;
- support state-of-the-art proven interventions;
- strengthen health systems to ensure the delivery of quality care for mothers, newborns, and children at scale;
- develop leadership and capacity that sustains health advances;
- develop management processes that get quality medicines and supplies into the hands of those who need them and that make sure they are used appropriately.