

Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa

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Featured



Sharing early findings in Dakar

In IMCHA's mid-term workshop in Dakar, Senegal, nineteen research teams, policymakers and two health policy research organizations discuss life-saving interventions to improve maternal and child health. Besides focusing on various research themes such as community health workers and quality of care, the workshop highlights IMCHA's ongoing efforts on gender and knowledge translation.

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Research in action

Maternal and child health is a community affair in Senegal

In Senegal, neighbourhood women known as godmothers bring vital maternal and child healthcare information to isolated women. Research is finding ways to make their work sustainable and better valued by the national health system.

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News

IDRC Board of Governors visits IMCHA projects

IDRC's Board of Governors visited Innovating for Maternal and Child Health (IMCHA) projects in Tanzania and Uganda in July 2017.

In Tanzania, the governors, government officials, and researchers attended a round table on improving health equity. The governors learned how the focus of IMCHA is aligned with the Tanzanian government's priorities and practices. For example, a project led by the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences, in collaboration with the University of Calgary, is implementing the government-backed [MamaToto process](#) — a low-cost program that strengthens services at health facilities and within communities to save mothers and children — in the Geita and Mwanza regions.



In Uganda, governors visited the Maganjo branch of BRAC in Kawempe. During the visit, they spoke with community health workers and mothers from the community who are seeking health services. The governors developed a greater understanding and appreciation of how community health workers are filling a critical gap in healthcare, particularly in maternal and child health — an important research area in the IMCHA initiative.

IMCHA mid-term evaluation will start this fall

The objectives of IMCHA's mid-term formative evaluation, which will begin this fall, are to assess the initiative's progress and to draw general lessons to improve it. The evaluation will examine various

dimensions of IMCHA research and implementation such as gender, equity, and collaboration between researchers and policymakers.

Featured publications

[Improving maternal and child health policymaking processes in Nigeria](#)

This article explores the main barriers to the use of evidence in maternal neonatal and child health policymaking in Nigeria. Findings highlight the inadequate capacity of research and policy organizations to conduct policy-relevant research and the lack of dialogue between researchers and policymakers. The research is part of the situational analysis of maternal and child health in West Africa conducted by the West African Health Organization.

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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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