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The Missed Opportunities in Maternal and Infant (MOMI) health is a five-year collaborative project funded by the European Union seventh framework programme (FP7-AFRICA-2010).

More information on [www.momiproject.eu](http://www.momiproject.eu).



# MOMI Newsletter

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## **MOMI End-of-Project Meeting and Conference** **21st—22nd January 2016** **Reef Hotel, Mombasa, Kenya**



As the MOMI Project comes to an end, the Kenya team will be hosting the end-of-project meeting and dissemination conference between 21st and 22nd January 2016. The meeting will bring together all consortium implementing partners; researchers; members of the Scientific Advisory Board and the different Policy Advisory Boards; government officials as well as the general public to the beautiful city of Mombasa. This will be a time to reflect on the implementation of the project, including lessons learned as well as an opportunity to disseminate findings from the project's monitoring and evaluation activities. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities to upgrade postpartum care at the different study sites in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique.

***Karibuni Sana! Mombasa Raha!***

## End-Evaluation: Case studies and stakeholders' workshops

The MOMI project end-evaluation data collection was conducted between June and October 2015. Teams of researchers in each of the study sites conducted data collection using multiple case study methodology and utilizing a realist evaluation framework. The case studies followed a training session held at the ICRH-Kenya offices in Mombasa, Kenya between 2nd and 5th June 2015. Case study data collection activities were coordinated by Nehla Djellouli from the University College, London. In addition to the case studies, the study teams also conducted participatory workshops comprising different stakeholders in the project. The participatory workshops were aimed at engaging stakeholders so that they could gain useful information, and consequently create more awareness and motivation towards the project. Importantly, the workshops also provided an opportunity for exchanging ideas and experiences among stakeholders and the MOMI team, regarding the implementation, sustainability and replicability of MOMI interventions. Findings from the end-evaluation case studies as well as the participatory workshops will be presented during the dissemination conference in January 2016.

### Community leaders involved in MOMI interventions in Ntchisi, Malawi

During end-evaluation, the MOMI Malawi team visited two community sites where MOMI is being implemented. It was pleasing to note that in both sites, traditional leaders were at the forefront in mobilizing communities to adopt positive behaviors in Maternal and Newborn Health, so as to improve postpartum outcomes. For instance, chiefs in the whole of Ntchisi district have constituted and are reinforcing by-laws for safe motherhood in support of the new national policy which bans traditional births attendants from conducting deliveries. These safe motherhood by-laws encourage women to deliver at the hospital and all those delivering at home are fined. Specific for MOMI, it was observed during two MOMI community action cycle women's group meetings that the meeting is conducted close to the senior chief's house. The chief takes



part in the meetings by being in charge of mobilizing community members to attend the meeting. The chief also participated in the group discussions and he encouraged the women to prevent harmful traditional practices that have negative impact on health. At one site, at the end of the meeting in his closing remarks, the chief pledged to continue supporting MOMI and urged PACHI to come up with strategies that would still have an impact even after the project phases out.

## PACHI disseminates MOMI policy briefs at a local research dissemination conference

The Malawi College of Medicine held a Research Dissemination Conference on 20-21 November 2015 where it presented several research topics. The conference was the 19th in series held annually under the theme "Addressing the double threat of non-communicable and communicable diseases in Malawi". The conference was organized to share findings from research studies to keep researchers, public and policy makers informed of current activities relevant to human health in Malawi. During the conference, researchers and all stakeholders discussed research findings through



*Above: MOMI Project Manager, Zion Dembo discussing the Malawi policy brief with a participant to the research conference*

oral and poster presentations. The presentations mainly focused on areas like Communicable diseases, Health systems, HIV and AIDS; Malaria; Maternal and Child Health; Non-Communicable Diseases and Tuberculosis. Zion Dembo who is MOMI project manager at Parent and Child Health initiative (PACHI) participated in the dissemination conference where she presented the MOMI policy brief which was developed based on results of the baseline situational analysis on key maternal and child health policies that affect postpartum care in Malawi. It includes policy recommendations for strengthening postpartum care. The MOMI policy brief presentation received a lot of attention from key policy makers such as government directors, researchers, and members of the academia. Stakeholders recommended the MOMI project for addressing postpartum care, a neglected area in maternal and child health area through context-specific package of interventions aimed at strengthening MNCH outcomes.



## Field Visits: FMUP visit to MOMI Mozambique

Between August 24th— 28th 2015, the FMUP team comprising of Prof. Henrique Barros and Paula Meireles, visited Chiúta District, Tete Province in Mozambique, where the MOMI project is being implemented. This was the last field visit to the Mozambique site. During this visit, the team visited health centers and communities where the interventions are being implemented and took part in Policy Advisory Board (PAB) meetings at the district and provincial levels. One im-



*Above: FMUP team comprising of Prof. Barros and Paula together with Prof. Nafissa and members of the MOMI Chiuta District policy advisory*

portant achievement noted during this field visit was a refresher training organized for all health workers (facility and community-based, including traditional birth attendants). Following a suggestion by the Provin-

cial Director of Health, Dr Carla Mosse, arrangements were made for the production of a documentary about the MOMI project in Chiúta. During one PAB meeting, the Head of the Department of Maternal and Infant Health from the Ministry of Health, Dr. Marina Karagianis led the establishment of a technical working group to deliberate on sustainability of project interventions. At the end of the visit, the MOMI team considered that it would be important to meet again with PAB members at the end of the



*Above: FMUP team comprising of Prof. Barros and Paula together with Prof. Nafissa and members of the MOMI Tete Province policy advisory board*

project to present results and scheduled a meeting for the 19th of January 2016. The FMUP team would wish to take this opportunity to thank ICRH-M and UEM teams for the constant support and close involvement during the field visits. They would also like to appreciate the collaboration of health workers from all health centers as well as the Provincial Directorate of Health that made field visits possible and for their genuine interest in the MOMI project. They would also like to acknowledge the involvement and interest of the National Director of Public Health of Mozambique, Dr. Francisco Mbofana and the Head of the Department of Maternal and Infant Health from the Ministry of Health, Dr. Marina Karagianis.

## MOMI project dissemination:

### MOMI at the MAGic 2015: Anthropology and Global Health Conference at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom



*Above: MOMI Researcher, Emilomo Ogbe presenting findings from the MOMI policy analysis study at the MAGic 2015 conference*

MOMI Research staff, Emilomo Ogbe (ICRH- Belgium) gave a presentation on 'Translating maternal and child health policies into local interventions: Provision of postpartum care services in Sub-Saharan Africa, the missing link?' at the MAGic 2015: Anthropology and Global Health Conference which took place at the University of Sussex, Brighton from the 9th to 11th of September, 2015. The theme of the conference was 'Anthropology and Global health: Interrogating theory, policy and practice'. The audience included researchers, civil society organizations and medical practitioners working on topics related to anthropology and global health.

### MOMI at the Institute of Tropical Medicine Colloquium on 'Maternal and Neonatal Health beyond 2015' Rabat, Morocco

MOMI Project Coordinator, Els Duysburgh gave a presentation on 'Disrespectful maternal care in health facilities in four sub-Saharan African countries' at the Institute of Tropical Medicine Colloquium on 'Maternal and neonatal health beyond 2015' in Rabat, Morocco from the 24th-27th of



*Above: Els Duysburgh, MOMI Project coordinator and other participants at the ITM Colloquium in Rabat, Morocco*

November, 2015. The Colloquium was focused on developing recommendations on how maternal health can be improved in an integrated post-2015 development framework, in line with the UN Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. Participants at the conference included researchers, health service providers and health policy makers.