

# IMPACT REPORT 2020

 MATERNITY  
foundation



December 2020

# Rethinking health worker training in light of COVID-19

When a health crisis hits, women everywhere will continue to get pregnant and give birth. In particular in low-resource countries and settings affected by conflict, pregnant women, new mothers, newborns and the health personnel providing them care face great risks in the new reality brought by COVID-19.

Midwives and other skilled health workers providing care during childbirth need immediate support and tools to be able to still provide quality maternal care in the light of the pandemic. To this end, now more than ever, the role of digital technology is undeniable.

As we look back on 2020, it has become more clear than ever that we need to rethink the way we train and support frontline health workers so they can have the best possible working conditions, pandemic or not.

By responding to health worker needs, leveraging digital platforms and remote training opportunities, we can continue to work closely with partners everywhere to ensure that pregnant women, new mothers and their newborns get the care they need and deserve, during and after the pandemic.



Anna Frellsen, CEO  
Maternity Foundation





# COVID-19 RESPONSE

In April 2020, we launched a COVID-19 module in the Safe Delivery App and on other platforms in collaboration with our university partners, Laerdal Global Health, International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), and UNFPA - and with funding from Merck for Mothers - to ensure that frontline health workers have access to up-to-date information on how to minimize exposure to COVID-19, both for themselves and their patients.

Since publication, the module has been adapted and expanded as new evidence and guidelines have emerged. To date, it includes information on hygiene measures, triage for receiving suspected and confirmed patients with COVID-19, symptoms of COVID-19, the usage and disposal of personal protective equipment, care during pregnancy and birth, as well as vertical transmission and breastfeeding.



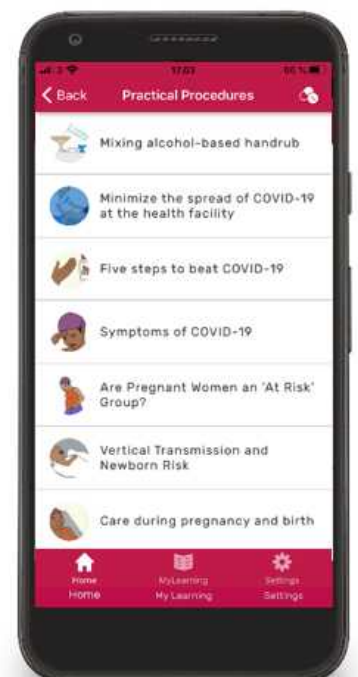
## GLOBAL REACH OF COVID-19 CONTENT

Currently, the COVID-19 content is available in:

- English (global version)
- French (global version)
- Ethiopia (English & Somali)
- India (English & Hindi)
- Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyz and Russian)
- Somalia (Somali)
- Nepal (Nepali and English)
- Bangladesh
- Rwanda (English and French)

In the pipeline

- Arabic (global version)
- Cambodia, Tanzania, Myanmar



# PILOT STUDY IN TANZANIA

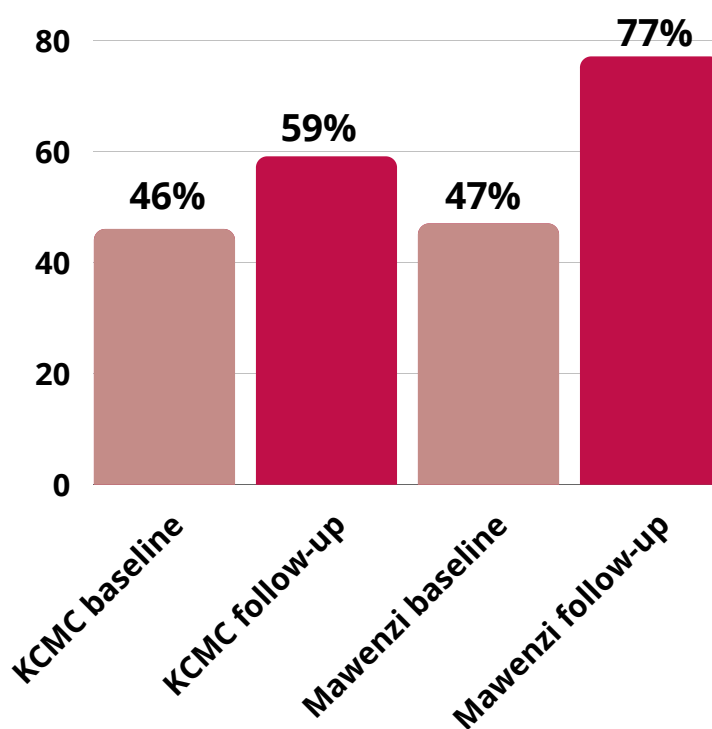
Assessing how the COVID-19 content in the Safe Delivery App affects knowledge and confidence levels among midwives and nurses in Tanzania

In early April 2020, The COVID-19 content in the Safe Delivery App was tested in a pilot study conducted by Laerdal Global Health with 50 midwives and nurses in Moshi, Tanzania at Mawenzi Regional Hospital and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC).

The pilot test evaluated how maternity staff can build knowledge and confidence in assisting pregnant women, women in labour and postnatal mothers with suspected COVID-19 in areas such as infection prevention and hand hygiene, use of PPE, and care during pregnancy and birth before being introduced to the Safe Delivery App with the Covid-19 module and again two weeks after being introduced to the App.

The findings showed increased knowledge levels among all the participants after being introduced to the Covid-19 content in the Safe Delivery App, and qualitative findings strongly supported the need for, feasibility and usability of the COVID-19 content.

**Knowledge scores of midwives and nurses at KCMC and Mawenzi before and after being introduced to the COVID-19 content in the Safe Delivery App**



*"It's very challenging, especially to identify people with covid-19. We are a referral hospital, we are receiving so many patients. So far, there are no cases in the maternity ward, but we are preparing ourselves. We have made a triage area and identified a place where suspected or confirmed mothers can be isolated. Being introduced to the app made us think 'we need to prepare!'. It made us realise we are not prepared. What if a pregnant woman is a suspected case? The labs are in Dar es Salaam, so when we test them, we won't know for 24 hours if they are positive. What do we do in the meantime?"*

**- Anne Shuma, senior nurse midwife at Mawenzi Hospital**



# DATA INSIGHTS:

## User patterns of COVID-19 content



Since the release of the COVID-19 modules in the Safe Delivery App and on other digital learning platforms, approximately 16,000 users have interacted with the COVID-19 modules, totaling over 95,000 views and with 70% of them in India. The COVID-19 module is primarily used by nurses in primary health facilities with 1-5 years of experience.

Our data shows that users are progressing much faster through knowledge levels on MyLearning on COVID-19 compared with the rest of the content on the App. This suggests that skilled birth attendants are hungry for information and eager to improve their knowledge on how to provide quality maternal care during the pandemic.

**81%**

of them become experts in the COVID-19 module

**43%**

of COVID-19 users in the App are using the MyLearning platform to improve their knowledge

The average number of MyLearners across modules is

**27%**

In comparison, **67%** become experts in other modules



# INTRODUCING REMOTE TRAININGS



COVID-19 has changed our ways of working, teaching and learning with a big shift towards more digital solutions.

To ensure that healthcare workers everywhere can still access the training and support they need during the pandemic, Maternity Foundation, together with our partners, introduced remote trainings with the Safe Delivery App that are now being rolled out in numerous countries and settings.

While remote trainings cannot fully replace face-to-face training, they can help ensure that healthcare workers receive critical information, are ultimately mitigate some of negative impacts on the quality of maternal and newborn health care services caused by the strain on health systems from the pandemic.

Our clinical team developed the remote training content to actively engage participants through exercises, case-based learning, and quizzes.

In addition to general information about COVID-19, trainings also include specific information on how to handle COVID-19 in a health care facility, the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and maternal and newborn health care in the context of COVID-19.

The training introduces participants to the Safe Delivery App and makes active use of the App and the COVID-19 module throughout.

## 33,188

Health workers in India, Haiti, Guinea, Somalia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, India, Cambodia, Maldives, Papua New Guinea and Burkina Faso have undergone remote training so far - and with more underway.

# SNAPSHOT FROM THE FIELD:

## Remote training in Papua New Guinea 'brings midwifery training into the 21st century'

For Maternity Foundation, 2020 and the realities of COVID-19 have opened up for new partnerships to conduct remote trainings around the world.

Among them is our partnerships with UNFPA Asia and South Pacific to create and conduct remote trainings with the Safe Delivery App for midwives in Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Maldives and Cambodia to better equip and prepare them to manage pregnancy and childbirth related cases in light of Covid-19.

Recently, our team conducted an online training for 12 midwives Papua New Guinea with the Safe Delivery App.

The day after the training, we received an update from midwife Polycarp Iwik on how he had already used the Safe Delivery App to manage a case of septic miscarriage.

"The Safe Delivery App was very convenient in this instance because I was able to quickly go through the definitions, assessments and management of a patient with septic abortion.

The information was readily available and in short and concise manner that helped refreshed the principles of management of this case which I learnt at school. It was also useful in disseminating information on diagnosis and management to the nursing staff attending to the case."

Polycarp Iwik's colleague from Rumginae Rural Hospital Dr. Kevin Pondikou, emphasised how the Safe Delivery App is a continuous source of support for nurses and midwives – and a chance to update their ways of working and learning:

"I am certain this app will go a very long way in helping to identify and manage life-threatening maternal health issues especially in the rural setting of this country.

This app is incredible and, believe it or not, it brings Rumginae Rural Hospital into the 21st century."

### Results from Papua New Guinea

In October, we conducted a two-day remote training on Covid-19, Infection Prevention, Hypertension, AMTSL, PPH; and Manual Removal of Placenta for 12 midwives in Papua New Guinea.

The participants' knowledge levels within those subjects was tested pre-training and directly after training.

On average, the knowledge increased from 58% (pre-training) to 72% (post training) showing good and immediate effects of the training.



"I'm the oldest Safe Delivery Champion in the hospital. I'm 55 years old and graduated in 1985. We were introduced to the Safe Delivery App in April 2019. I downloaded the App, studied by myself through the App, took the test and became a Safe Delivery Champion. I was the first one. For 4-5 years I didn't have practical work as a nurse as I was doing a different job, and then I returned to the labour ward. I used the Safe Delivery App to refresh my knowledge.

I'll give you an example: using a cord-clamp. I used to cut the umbilical cord immediately after the delivery. Now I know I need to wait three minutes before cutting it. Also, the cleanliness and the infection prevention modules in the App have been very helpful.

All the young nurses who come here know the latest procedures and guidelines, and I used to struggle to keep up. But now I know too. I'm updated about all the latest knowledge through the Safe Delivery App, and now I'm on the same level as them. You're never too old to learn."

**- Rajinder Kaur, Nursing Sister at Mata Kaushalya Government Hospital  
Patiyala, Punjab, India**



# NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



## Message service to mothers in Benin

In partnership with Plan Benin and PlanBørnefonden, we are introducing a digital innovation to reach pregnant women and new mothers with critical health information in their own homes. The platform includes both SMS and interactive voice response (IVR) technology, which will deploy text and audio messages weekly, following the timing of a woman's pregnancy or the first year of raising their infant. The platform will be piloted in early 2021, builds on our "Lucy" SMS/IVR system developed and tested in Ethiopia, and is funded through DANIDA Innovation funds

## Novo Nordisk grants to tackle COVID-19

Maternity Foundation has received two grants from the Novo Nordisk Foundation to mitigate the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic in Ethiopia and Myanmar.

In Myanmar, in partnership with Danish Red Cross and Myanmar Red Cross Society, we will train and support midwives to handle COVID-19 through the Safe Delivery App. In Ethiopia, we will work with partners to strengthen the prevention and management of COVID-19 and ensure quality maternal and child health care in Addis Ababa.

## Anniversary Book

2020 marks Maternity Foundation's 15th anniversary. In Denmark, we are celebrating it by releasing a book about our journey from a small Danish NGO to an international player in the intersection of maternal health and digital learning. It draws on voices, stories, and expert analysis from all over the world and is for sale online and in Danish bookstores.



*Det må ikke  
koste liv*  
**AT GIVE LIV**

**MATERNITY FOUNDATION**  
- fra lille dansk NGO til global  
digital frontløber i kamp for  
kvinders sundhed

# PROJECTS AND LEARNINGS



## 12 years in Gimbie, Ethiopia

Maternity Foundation has been working in Ethiopia for 15 years. This year, our team in Western Ethiopia finalized the third 4-year period of a project to enhance maternal and newborn health in the West Wollega Region, reaching more than 150,000 women, their partners and unborn/newborn babies.

The project's focus was two-fold: support and improve community engagement with and access to health care, and a clinical focus to improve quality of maternal and newborn care. Among key achievements of the project are:

- **6,831** change agents trained and **204,930** people reached by the change agents
- **43** reproductive health clubs established at secondary schools
- **806** health workers trained on LUCY mobile Mesmage system for pregnant women and new mothers.
- **9,946** women reached through LUCY
- **28** health Centers and **107** midwives reached with onsite mentorship
- **128** midwives underwent BEmONC training
- **2** maternal waiting homes constructed.

## Long-term learnings in Myanmar

In Myanmar, what started as a project to introduce the Safe Delivery App in 2015 has turned into a long-term strategic partnership with the Danish Red Cross and Myanmar Red Cross Society with support from Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports to build capacity of midwives and Red Cross staff through the Safe Delivery App.

Our experiences in Myanmar have provided key learnings that we are also applying in other projects and partnerships around the world.

- Long-term partnerships are strong catalysts for scale in the "quick and savvy" world of tech
- Continued use of the Safe Delivery App leads to continued increase in knowledge and confidence among midwives
- Context matters: Deep involvement of partners with local knowledge and presence increases the likelihood of local ownership and sustained impact



# WHAT'S NEW WITH THE SAFE DELIVERY APP?

## Normal Birth Module

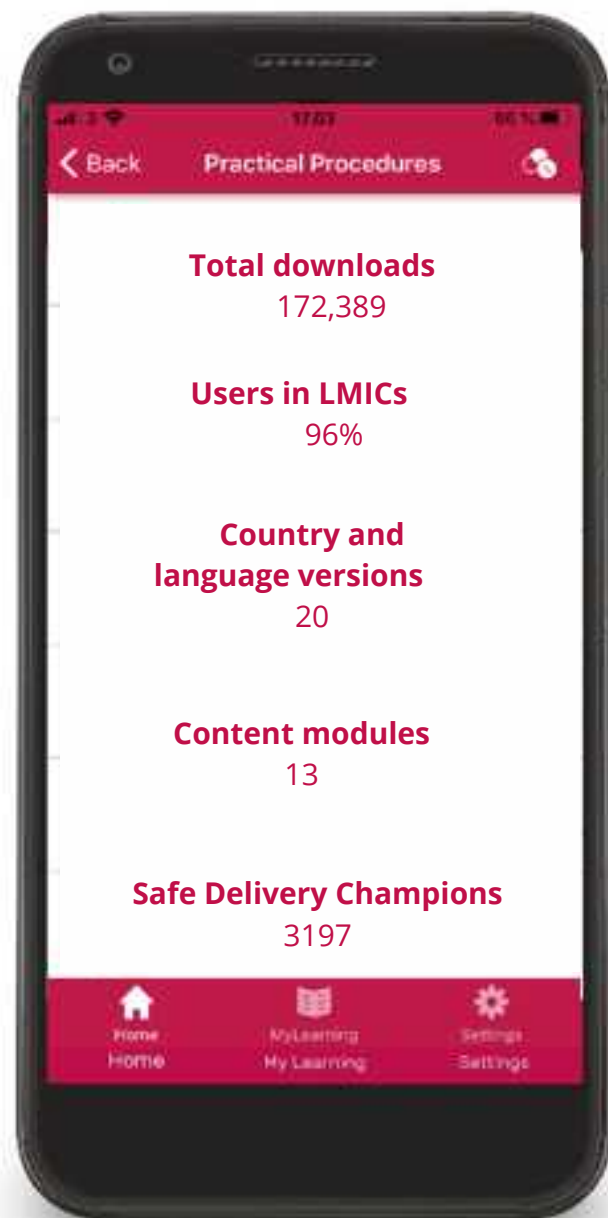
In June, our clinical team created and published a Normal Labour and Birth content module to the Safe Delivery App. The module contains recommendations for essential care during a normal labour and birth, based on WHO guidelines. It was reviewed and approved by the Indian Ministry of Health, Laerdal Global Health, and our University partners at the University of Southern Denmark and the University of Copenhagen.

## Improved user experience

Lead by our Chief Technical Officer, we are taking several steps to improve the user experience of the Safe Delivery App. As we add more modules and content in the App, it becomes heavier to download and run, especially in areas with a slow internet connection or on older phones. This is why we are now working on packaging the content differently and making it possible to do selective downloads of specific content modules, so health workers can pick and choose the content as they need it.

## Training exercises

As a new addition, we have introduced training exercises on [www.safedelivery.org](http://www.safedelivery.org). The training exercises can serve as inspiration or as a tool for teachers and trainers who want to use the Safe Delivery App in education and training of midwives and other skilled birth attendants and address a variety of ways of learning, both digitally and face-to-face



## New versions released in 2020 and in the pipeline for 2021:

- Arabic global version
- Rwanda
- Cambodia
- Nepal
- Swahili
- Bangladesh





## **A big thank you to all of our partners, donors and supporters**

Merck for Mothers, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Kavli Fondet, Ole Kirk's Foundation, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Det Obelske Familiefond, William Demant Fonden, Østifterne, UNFPA, USAID, UNICEF, Ida og J. Rindom, Arnstedske Familiefond, Foss A/S, Hesse Rables Fond, MSD Danmark, Zonta, La Glace, Carré, Bolou, 8. Marts Gruppen, Nine United, Kirsten og Peter Bangs Fond - and a number of non-disclosed donors.

University of Copenhagen, University of Southern Denmark, Visikon, PlanBørnefonden, The Danish Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Laerdal Global Health, International Confederation of Midwives, IPE Global, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare India, Ministry of Health Ethiopia, Ministry of Health and Sports Myanmar, WHO, GIZ, Alight, WCEA, JICA, Indian Nursing Council, Care, Plan International, CIPRB, Ifakara Health Institute, Save the Children, Medics Sans Frontieres and many more.

**- and not least thank you to all the frontline health workers of 2020**