REDUCING NEWBORN DEATHS IN AFRICA IS ACHIEVABLE. THE TIME IS NOW.

NEST360

Annual Highlights
Phase 2, Year 2

2025



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Pictured above: A mother feeds her baby with a syringe. Ethiopia. 2025.

FASTER TOGETHER FOR NEWBORNS EVERYWHERE

In this second year of NEST360 Phase 2, we are proud to report that investment in high-quality hospital newborn care has reduced neonatal mortality in hospitals implementing with NEST360. This reduction proves what is possible when we come together for collective impact.

NEST360 uses a multidisciplinary approach, combining neonatal care equipment, human capacity development, and data-driven change. Building on this momentum, we will continue to scale these care improvements even further and advocate tirelessly for sustained investment in the survival of small and sick newborns.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Ministries of Health, partners, donors, healthcare professionals, implementing partners, and the NEST360 alliance members for making 2025 a successful year.

Every newborn deserves a chance to survive and thrive.
Together, we are making that possible.

With determination and gratitude,
Nahya Salim and William Macharia
NEST360 Steering Committee Co-Chairs



Prof. Nahya Salim Masoud
Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences
Tanzania



Prof. William Macharia
Aga Khan University
Kenya

Ending Preventable Newborn Deaths Across Africa



Pictured above: A mother provides Kangaroo Mother Care to her baby. Kakamega County General Teaching and Referral Hospital, Kenya.

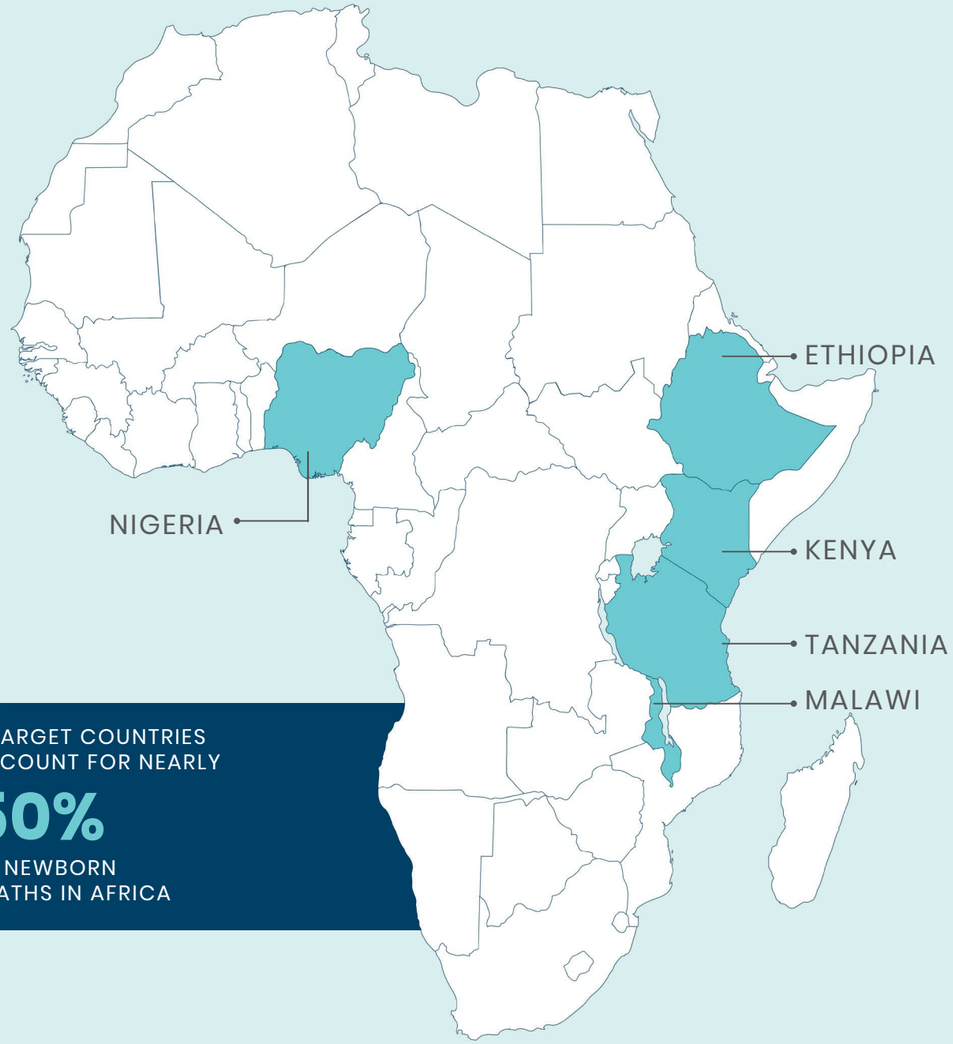
Our Mission

Over 1.1 million African newborns die every year in sub-Saharan Africa, the highest newborn mortality rate globally. Most newborn deaths are preventable with high-quality hospital care that includes hospitals with suitable space, skilled staff, and effective equipment backed by data to drive quality improvement and investment to scale.

NEST360 (Newborn Essential Solutions and Technologies) delivers lifesaving care for vulnerable newborns in hospitals across Africa to end preventable newborn deaths. We partner with governments, educational institutions, professional societies, and national NGOs to ensure that transformative, high-quality care remains sustainable.

Learn more about **NEST360's international alliance** and our country programs.

FIVE COUNTRIES, ONE MISSION



5 TARGET COUNTRIES
ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY
50%
OF NEWBORN
DEATHS IN AFRICA

5	130+	750k+	160k+	41k+
Countries	Hospitals	Deliveries per year	Admissions per year	Healthcare professionals & students trained

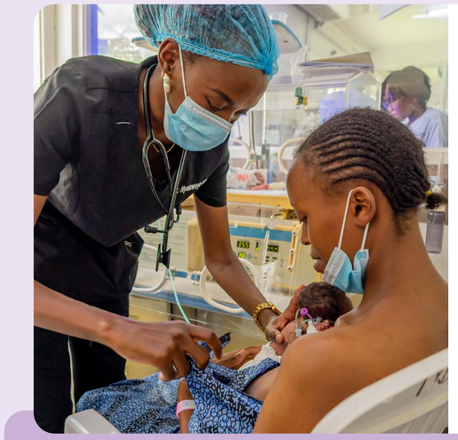
Accelerating Progress to Achieve Newborn Survival Targets

EVERY WOMAN EVERY NEWBORN EVERYWHERE (EWENE)

The EWENE movement's 2030 targets aim to accelerate essential maternal and newborn care. They require 80% of districts (or district equivalents) to provide functional inpatient neonatal units with respiratory support for small and sick newborns.

90%	90%	80%	80%
of pregnant women receive at least four antenatal care visits	of women give birth with a skilled health worker present	of new mothers and their babies receive postnatal care within two days of birth	of districts have sick and small newborn care units and emergency obstetric care accessible for at least half of the population

Pictured above: 90/90/80/80 target graphic credit of EWENE. 2025.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) NEWBORN TARGET

The United Nations set SDG 3.2 to end preventable newborn deaths and reduce neonatal mortality to fewer than 12 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030. Currently, 64 countries are off track to meet this target. Most countries in Africa must triple their efforts to meet the target by 2030.

Pictured left: A doctor helps a mother begin KMC with her newborn, Pumwani Maternity Hospital, Kenya.

Achieving these targets requires partners to rally around government-led priorities and work together to accelerate progress. Read about our ongoing work.

MEASURING CHANGE

650,000+

NEWBORNS SERVED ACROSS KENYA, MALAWI, NIGERIA, AND TANZANIA

65 HOSPITALS

STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT MORTALITY REDUCTION FOR ADMITTED NEWBORNS ACROSS 4 COUNTRIES

2/3

OF PHASE 1 HOSPITALS REDUCED MORTALITY

3X FASTER

RELATIVE MORTALITY REDUCTION RATE COMPARED TO THE CURRENT AFRICAN AVERAGE

CPAP & KMC

ARE THE HIGHEST IMPACT INTERVENTIONS ACROSS PARTNER COUNTRIES

62,561

UNIQUE USERS ACROSS 208 COUNTRIES ACCESSED THE NEWBORN TOOLKIT RESOURCES

(These figures on this page are reflections from the interim mortality findings to September 2025 compared with 2021/2022)

Driving Newborn Survival through Systems Change



Pictured above: A nurse helps a mother position her baby in the KMC wrap in the Newborn unit at Thika Level 5 hospital, Kenya.

Accelerating Newborn Survival

Data and maternal stories prove that reducing newborn mortality is achievable. Hospitals implementing NEST360 accelerate newborn survival through a sustainable, three-pronged systems approach: innovative lifesaving technologies, multidisciplinary education, and locally owned data to drive policy and investment.

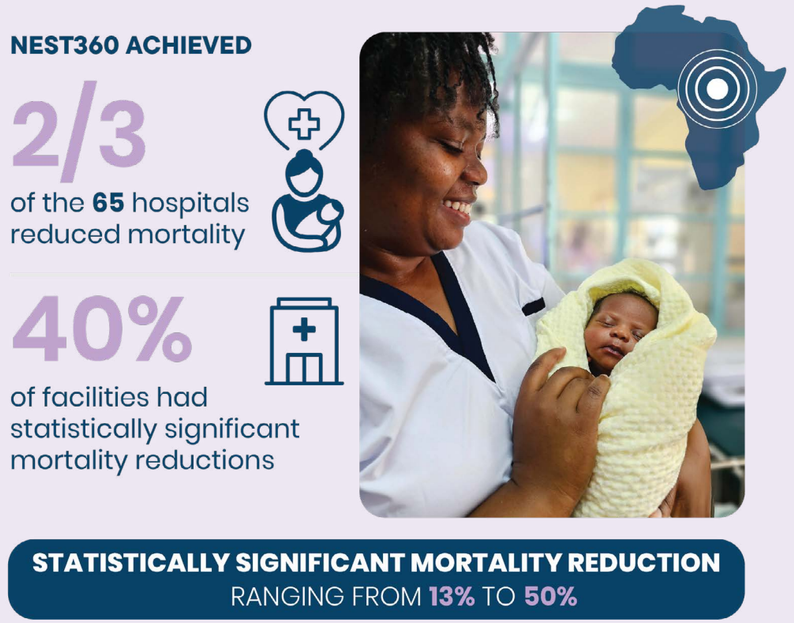
"My baby was born too soon, weighing only 800 grams, and I'm thankful for the machines that helped her breathe. After we left the newborn unit, the doctors recommended Kangaroo Mother Care, and I followed their advice while working closely with the nurses and doctors. Two months later, my baby had grown from 800 grams to 2 kilograms, and we were able to go home."

– Habituni Juma, mother of a preterm baby, Tanzania

Impact

NEST360 hospitals are reducing newborn mortality at three times the African average:

- Across 65 Phase 1 hospitals with over 650,000 admissions, the program achieved a statistically significant mortality reduction for admitted newborns across Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Tanzania, particularly for those weighing 1000–1999g and >2000g.
- Two-thirds of the 65 hospitals reduced mortality.
- 40% of facilities had statistically significant mortality reductions ranging from 13% to 50%, associated with increases in high-impact interventions, particularly CPAP and KMC.



Looking Ahead

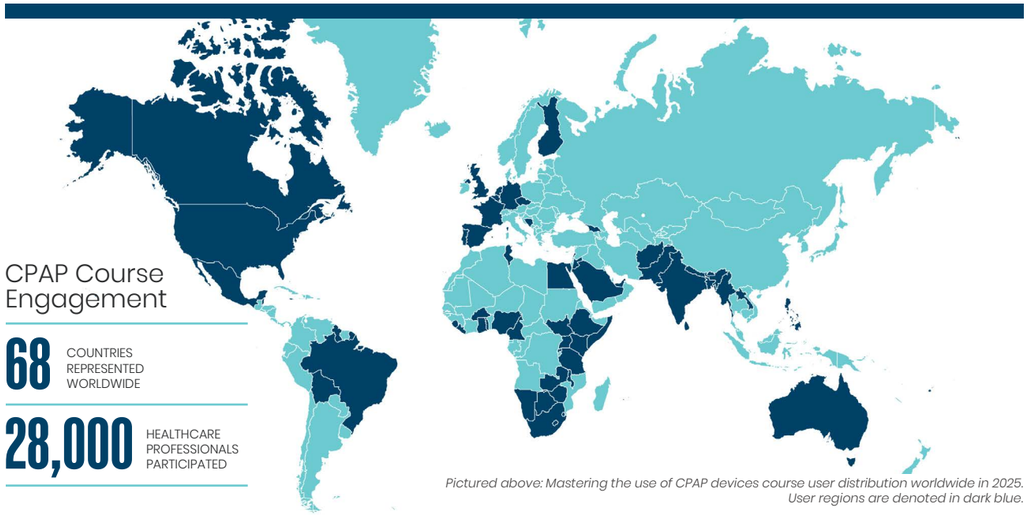
Some hospitals have already reported mortality reductions by up to 50%. In 2026, NEST360 will expand its comprehensive care model to more African hospitals and focus on the linkages with maternal care. Through strategic partnerships, we can move faster to eliminate over one million preventable neonatal deaths each year. Read more about our interim mortality results.

Strengthening the Newborn Care Workforce

Every day, healthcare professionals make lifesaving decisions for vulnerable babies. To support them, we are bringing innovative, self-paced education programs directly to these workers.

We are helping develop training, such as a new online/offline **Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) course**, designed for busy clinicians treating newborns with respiratory distress.

Like all our training courses, the CPAP course is open source and available for worldwide access. It has been endorsed by major neonatal associations, and has trained over **28,000 healthcare professionals** with primary use in district and regional hospitals in Africa. Course participants achieved **an increase in knowledge** from pre- to post-course testing, translating to higher-quality care for the tiniest patients. **Read the full story here.**



Pictured above: Mastering the use of CPAP devices course user distribution worldwide in 2025. User regions are denoted in dark blue.

"Access to CPAP therapy in every newborn unit isn't a luxury. It's a lifesaving right for every baby fighting for their first breath. To truly save newborn lives, healthcare professionals must be equipped with the skills and confidence to use these technologies well. Breathing is a right, not a privilege."

– Patrick Too, Chairperson of the Association of African Neonatal Nurses (AANeoN)

Advancing Coverage with Quality through Clinical Mentorships

To accelerate progress, hospitals implementing with NEST360 in Tanzania introduced a redesigned low-dose, high-frequency (LDHF) mentorship model at seven tertiary and zonal hospitals. This approach used short, focused learning sessions and peer-to-peer hospital visits to strengthen best practices and address quality gaps.

Nearly all hospitals
achieved and sustained coverage targets for CPAP, KMC, and phototherapy

All 7 hospitals
achieved and sustained targets for preventing newborn hypothermia on admission

These outcomes demonstrate that hospitals are practicing safer, higher-quality newborn care.



Pictured above: Healthcare professionals in a group practical session on the step-by-step management of neonatal jaundice using phototherapy and standardized job aids during user training for Phase I facilities in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Investing in Lifesaving Technologies that Work



Pictured above: Newborns receive lifesaving care with a bundle of technologies and training supported by Ntchisi District Hospital, Malawi.

Hospitals in Africa need the right technologies to provide quality newborn care. NEST360 qualifies devices to guide the sourcing and development of newborn technologies suitable for use in these hospitals. These resources support governments and hospitals when making purchasing decisions.

In 2025, two integrated, low-cost devices were added to the NEST360 Qualified Technologies to address newborn hypothermia – Celsi Monitor and Celsi Warmer. Learn more about **NEST360 Qualified Technologies**.



Celsi Monitor
A continuous temperature monitor that alerts caregivers to dangerous temperature fluctuations.



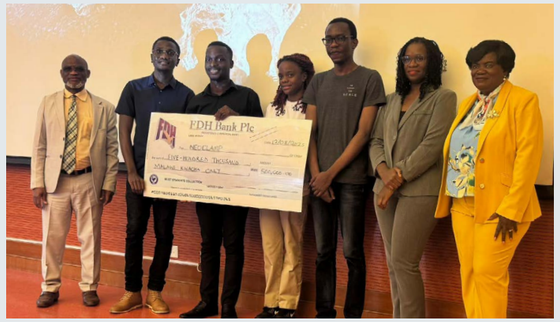
Celsi Warmer
A conductive warming mattress that converts any standard bed into a warming bed.

Innovating for Impact with African Universities

In 2025, the Invention Education (IvE) Network hosted the first **Invention Education pan-African Design Competition**, which brought together the most promising student-led innovations from seven university design studios across the continent. The competition showcased how the network's hands-on approach to engineering education is empowering the next generation of African innovators to transform neonatal and maternal care.











Sharing the Science in Nairobi

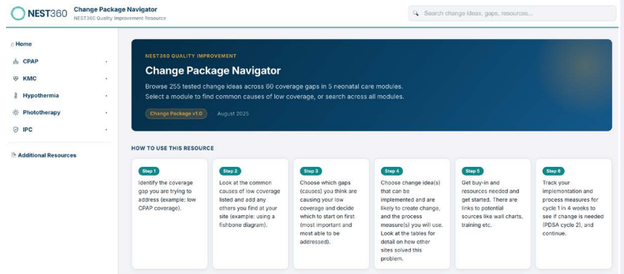
The NEST360 Alliance hosted an interactive evening of learning, ***Sharing the Science*** session, bringing together innovators, researchers, implementers, and designers across the NEST360 network to discuss advancements in newborn and maternal health.

Improving Care through Data-Driven, Hospital-Led Change

In 2025, hospitals partnering with NEST360 used their data dashboards to identify care gaps, guide decisions, and accelerate quality improvement initiatives. Led by local healthcare professionals, these quality improvement efforts significantly strengthened care for small and sick newborns across Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Tanzania.

NEST360 Change Package: Collections of Change Ideas for Priority Clinical Indicators

This year, NEST360 published a collection of evidence-informed knowledge, resources, and strategies designed to support the implementation of key interventions.



Visit the NEST360 Change Package Navigator

Each hospital met targeted changes to strengthen care for small and sick newborns.

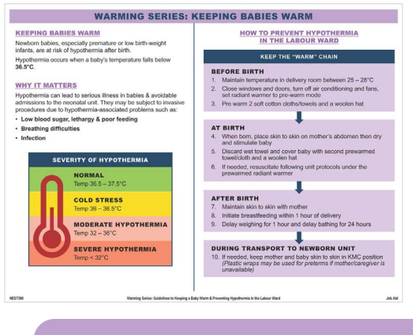


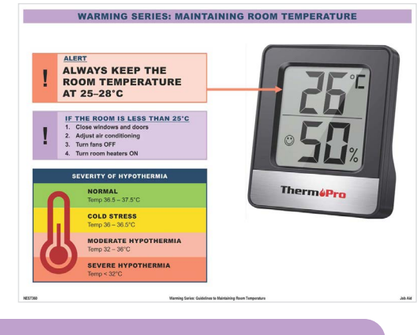
Pictured above: A quality improvement coach accesses the NEST-IT dashboard on her phone during a data review meeting with the newborn team at Pumwani Hospital.

Fighting Hypothermia

Hypothermia is associated with increased risk of newborn death. To combat seasonal hypothermia among newborns in Malawi, NEST360 partnered with local healthcare professionals to analyze vulnerability data.
A pattern emerged from the data showing the risk of hypothermia rising in colder months.

In response, hospitals implemented staff training, distributed warming equipment, and prioritized immediate Kangaroo Mother Care. Thanks to these data-driven interventions, seasonal hypothermia rates have declined, helping Malawi's small and sick babies survive and thrive.





Ward Guidelines for Hypothermia Prevention

Resources to Keep Babies Warm

Preterm infants require some level of thermal support to maintain a normal body temperature (normothermia) in the first days of life.

- Conductive Warmer Job Aid
- Conductive Warmer Module



Pictured above: A nurse cares for a preterm baby at a hospital in Malawi.

Delivering Powerful Data Dashboards to Hospitals

Data accessibility is key to improving quality care. By focusing on a powerful, easy-to-understand system for tracking locally owned data, the **NEST360 Implementation Tracker (NEST-IT)** data dashboard provides hospitals with actionable insights with intuitive visualizations that highlight successes and pinpoint where challenges can be addressed.

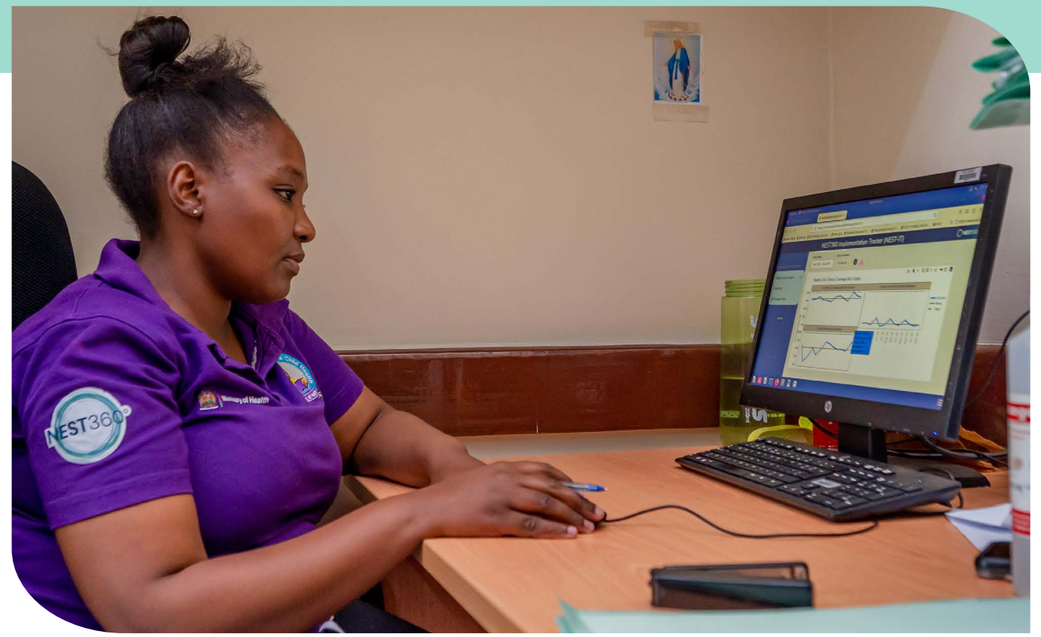
98% login rate

sustained monthly user login rate on NEST-IT dashboard

50,000+ logins

annual NEST-IT dashboard logins from partner countries in 2025

NEST-IT has proved to be an important tool for hospitals implementing with NEST360.



Pictured above: A health records information officer enters data that feeds the NEST-IT dashboard in the newborn unit at Thika Level 5 Hospital, Kenya.



Pictured above: A nurse adjusts oxygen for a newborn receiving KMC against their mother's chest at Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, Ethiopia.

Advancing Country Data Systems

The SLL360 Ethiopia team led efforts to **advance country ownership of data** with sustainable, country-led data systems, improving access to data that drives decisions.

Expansion

Ethiopia expanded its newborn health dashboards from **20 NEST360 alliance hospitals to 226 hospitals nationwide** building on the indicators, design principles, and lessons learned from NEST360.

Integration

Ethiopia linked the dashboard to the country's DHIS2 and other national health data systems.

Data Driving Decisions

The platform supports informed decision-making based on comprehensive data at every level of Ethiopia's health system.

Investing in Newborn Care for Big Returns

Investing in newborn care, particularly for small and sick infants, yields substantial returns, generating $12 for every dollar spent. To unlock and encourage resource mobilization, NEST360 supported governments of Kenya and Tanzania in creating evidence-based investment cases to guide smarter government budgeting and financing. These strong government partnership efforts are essential to improving newborn care to prevent over one million annual neonatal deaths across Africa.

Scaling Care to Meet National Goals

On World Prematurity Day 2025, Kenya's Ministry of Health and NEST360 launched a phased, costed **Investment Case** to scale up quality nationwide neonatal care. By strengthening infrastructure, data systems, workforce capacity, and referral units across all counties, the plan aims to **reduce newborn mortality from 21 to 12 per 1,000 births by 2030**, **saving ~47,000 newborn lives** and yielding an estimated twelve-fold economic return. The government of Kenya is calling for all newborn advocates to implement this vital plan to provide quality care for every newborn.

What it will take (costed plan)

Facility Level	Care Provided	Best-case (Full national Standards)	Moderate (50% New + Rest Renovations)
County referral (Level 5)	Advanced newborn care with short term ventilation for less than 7 days.	US $770k KES 100M	US $447k KES 59M
Sub- county / PCN hub (Level 4)	Provision of small and sick newborn care for ill term and preterm neonates with CPAP.	US $345k KES 44M	US $187k KES 24M

Kenya Investment Case

A costed roadmap co-developed with the Kenya Ministry of Health.

Investing in Infrastructure



Transforming Safer Spaces for Newborns

Implementing with NEST360, Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital in Tanzania has transformed its neonatal and labor wards into safer, more dignified spaces for newborn care.

Supported by the Infrastructure Improvement Fund, these renovations are part of broader efforts across Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Tanzania to **improve the hospitals that support quality newborn care**. So far, the fund has supported **49 projects across the five countries, with 27 completed projects.**

Impact



- Expansion of congested newborn units.
- Purchase of essential furnishings and equipment.
- Strengthening of biomedical workshops.
- Solving major operational challenges, including power outages and water supply interruptions.

Protecting Continuous Care from Power Failures

For 24 months (January 2024 to December 2025), the Hadli system continuously monitored the power availability and reliability at numerous hospitals implementing with NEST360 across Africa, including nine in Nigeria. The system captured every blackout and voltage fluctuation occurring during newborn care. In Nigeria alone, hospitals experienced power failures on a regular basis, with disruptions occurring more often than not throughout the monitored weeks.

To address these power failures, the NEST360 Infrastructure Improvement Fund supported five high-priority hospitals in Nigeria, which have now installed solar power systems to secure reliable, lifesaving energy for their newborn wards.



Pictured above: Installation of inverter solar backup power system at University College Hospital, Nigeria.

Nigeria Power Trends at NEST360 Hospitals

2/3
hospital monitored weeks had at least one power failure

30
hospital powered-care days were lost in a year

5
solar systems now installed

The Momentum Builds

United in a mission to save lives. Proving that change is possible.

Countries in Africa are driving a future where no newborn dies from preventable causes. Working together with governments, the NEST360 Alliance brings together expertise, leadership, and collective action that scales proven interventions, improves the quality of sustainable health systems, and empowers local healthcare professionals.

We know what works to save vulnerable newborns. Together, we can act to make these proven, practical solutions available to every newborn, everywhere. Achieving real change requires partners to unite and rally behind government-led priorities, working together to accelerate progress for survival.

We deeply appreciate the babies and families that our work serves, and we are grateful to the governments and healthcare professionals leading this change. We thank and acknowledge our Alliance partners and our generous funders who make moving faster together possible. Together, we can help ensure that every newborn has a chance to survive and thrive, no matter where they are born. We are committed to continuing this work and advocating for investment to strengthen healthcare systems across Africa.

We invite you to join our journey.
To explore opportunities to connect or collaborate, contact us at: info@nest360.org



Pictured above: A mother performs KMC at Bwaila District Hospital, Malawi.



NEWBORN ESSENTIAL SOLUTIONS
AND TECHNOLOGIES (NEST360)

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