ENDING THE CRISIS OF NEWBORN DEATHS IN AFRICA

NEST360

Annual Highlights
Phase 2, Year 1

2024



WHAT UNITES US

Every year, over 1 million newborns die in sub-Saharan Africa, which has the highest newborn mortality rate globally. Many of these deaths are preventable with high-quality hospital care. Although more women are delivering in health facilities, hospitals often lack the right technology, equipment, and trained staff to care for preterm and distressed newborns.

Hospitals need suitable space, skilled staff, and effective equipment backed by data to drive quality improvement and investment to scale newborn care coverage.

OUR MISSION

NEST360 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. We believe every newborn deserves the same chance at survivial no matter where they are born.

TOGETHER FOR NEWBORNS, EVERYWHERE

As we reflect on our first year of NEST360 Phase 2, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for the contributions of each member of the NEST360 Alliance generous funders, dedicated partners, and the newborn health community for your commitment and support to improving health care for newborn survival across Africa.

Together, we continue to make impactful and positive changes in the lives of newborns and their families and caregivers. Each year, we witness growing momentum in our ability to support high-quality newborn care in more health facilities with well-trained individuals ready to help the most vulnerable survive and thrive. We are proud of this group's support of healthcare and biomedical students, hospital staff, and the people in our communities.

In this reflective moment, we are pleased to share some highlights from NEST360 and the efforts of our partners over the past year. Thank you for your continued dedication and support. We are stronger together.

With gratitude,

Nahya Salim, Rebecca Richards-Kortum, and William Macharia
NEST360 Steering Committee Co-Leads, 2025-2026



Nahya Salim Masoud
Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences
Tanzania



Rebecca Richards-Kortum
Rice University
United States



William Macharia
Aga Khan University
Kenya

SPOTLIGHT ON:

REDUCING NEWBORN DEATHS

Preterm birth is the leading cause of death among children under age 5 in the world. Every year, 2.3 million newborns die, and 28 million small and sick newborns require hospital care worldwide.

Of the 2.3 million, over 1 million newborns die in sub-Saharan Africa every year. Most newborn deaths are preventable with high-quality hospital care.

The United Nations (UN) set the Sustainable Development Goal 3.2 (SDG) to end preventable newborn deaths by 2030, with all countries aiming to reduce newborn deaths to as low as 12 per 1,000 live births. Currently, 64 countries are off track, and only two countries in sub-Saharan Africa are on track to achieve this goal. Our progress must triple to meet the target by 2030.[1]

The Every Woman Every Newborn Everywhere (EWENE) target agreed by all countries is for 80% of districts (or district-equivalent) to have at least one functional inpatient unit, including respiratory support for small and sick newborn care, by 2025.

Working together, we can accelerate country newborn health targets, contributing to the achievement of SDG 3.2 to end preventable newborn deaths in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Tanzania.**

1: World Health Organization. (n.d.). Newborn mortality. World Health Organization. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/newborn-mortality



What we do

NEST360 organizes around partnerships and co-investment with African governments to achieve impact and scale improvements in newborn care across Africa to meet global goals. NEST360 supports governments in developing a systems-based approach to transform newborn care to:

- **Deliver a package of lifesaving technologies**
- **Establish and maintain an education ecosystem for healthcare professionals and biomedical engineers**
- **Inspire data-driven action and increase progress for quality newborn care**

Reflecting on our past work

Phase 1 (2019-2023): In collaboration with Ministries of Health (MOH) in Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania, and Nigeria, we co-designed and implemented a package of proven interventions to improve survival for small and sick newborns in **67 hospitals**.

READ MORE

A YEAR OF IMPACT

101,485

NEWBORNS SERVED IN 5 PARTNER COUNTRIES

190

NEWBORN WARDS SUPPORTED THROUGH HATCH TECHNOLOGIES AND LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS

39

NEWBORN TECHNOLOGIES QUALIFIED BY NEST360 FOR LOW-RESOURCE SETTINGS

1,000+

NEWBORN CARE RESOURCES SHARED VIA THE NEWBORN TOOLKIT IN OVER 15 LANGUAGES

35,000+

LOGINS TO THE ONLINE DATA DASHBOARD, INCLUDING NEARLY 1,000 LOGINS FROM MOH

24

NEST360 FACILITIES SHOWED STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT RELATIVE REDUCTIONS OF 14%-54% IN ADJUSTED INPATIENT NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE



TECHNOLOGY

LEARN MORE

- **29** novel health technologies created by local product developers in Africa through the Invention Education Network
- **1,305** newborn devices distributed and maintained by Hatch Technologies
- **22** new medical devices evaluated in 2024, with **10** newly approved as NEST360-Qualified



EDUCATION

LEARN MORE

- **5** countries continue to adapt NEST360 education materials into national guidelines and education programs
- **130+** clinical and biomedical educators empowered to sustain education via the Generic Instructor Course
- **90+** materials co-designed with governments to support scale-up of SSNC



DATA FOR ACTION &

IMPROVING QUALITY

LEARN MORE

- **67** hospitals track key data in the NEST360 Implementation Tracker (NEST-IT)
- **5** countries continue efforts to integrate NID into national information systems to track progress to achieve Every Newborn Coverage targets
- **27%** improvement in number of facilities achieving timely data entry used to set improved quality targets

2024–2028

BEGINNING THE NEXT PHASE, TOGETHER

In 2024, the NEST360 alliance began Phase 2 to scale proven interventions, build sustainable health systems, and empower local healthcare teams to end preventable newborn deaths across Africa. We use a systems approach to transform care for vulnerable babies.





Delivering a package of lifesaving technologies

Our technology innovation team seeks to deliver lifesaving technologies to ensure that every newborn in the facilities we support can receive the care they need.

READ MORE

Spotlight on Hatch Technologies

Hatch Technologies, a member of the NEST360 alliance, surpassed performance and sales targets in 2024 by distributing 1,305 devices, supporting 190 newborn wards, and expanding its operations to Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Ghana. Hatch also expanded its product portfolio to include maternal care devices.

READ MORE

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT INNOVATION IN AFRICA



Newborn and Maternal Technology Landscape, 11th Edition

This document featured **132 newborn and maternal health technologies** that meet minimal standards defined by the Newborn Target Product Profiles.

DOWNLOAD THE LANDSCAPE ▶



NEST360 Qualified Technologies

Using our eight-step process that tests environmental performance, usability, and cost, we evaluate technologies for Level 2 newborn care plus respiratory support in low-resource settings. This process has led to the **qualification of 39 devices** across **13 product categories.**

EXPLORE QUALIFIED TECHNOLOGIES ▶



Innovation Landscape

The Innovation Landscape features **29 solutions designed by African innovators** that solve local healthcare challenges. This landscape is a resource for investors interested in supporting rising leaders in Africa and is an exciting opportunity to create awareness and visibility for new innovators.

EXPLORE INNOVATIONS DESIGNED IN AFRICA ▶

SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION

DELIVERING HIGH-QUALITY CARE

Our team focuses on establishing and maintaining an education ecosystem to ensure that clinical and biomedical staff and students are trained to deliver high-quality small and sick newborn care with confidence and expertise.





Develop clinical, biomedical and family education resources

In the past year, we developed educational resources and supported country teams to use them to develop and run competency based SSNC in-service and pre-service training programs. We also facilitated continuous professional development through specialized courses and mentorship.

READ MORE

Expanding access to training materials in Portuguese

Select NEST360 clinical job aids are now available for download and use in Portuguese. These materials were translated and provided in partnership with Save the Children Mozambique.

READ MORE

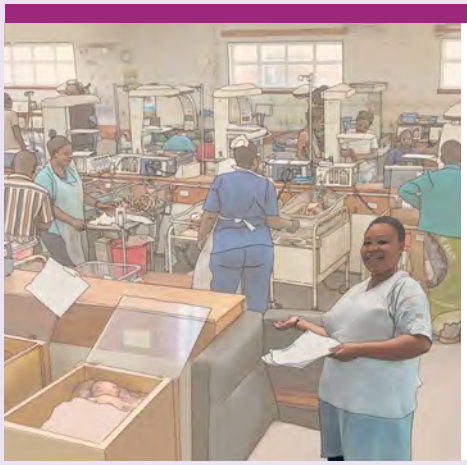
RESOURCES TO SUPPORT HEALTHCARE EDUCATION



Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC)

To support the uptake and coverage of KMC our teams worked with the Newborn Toolkit to develop a KMC resources with over six categories of resources accessible online and offline for all facilities. These resources were used to update country KMC guidelines and training programs and create scenarios for use during training and mentorship in Tanzania and Malawi.

EXPLORE KMC RESOURCES ▶



Newborn Ward Orientation Video

To orient new staff and students, a 14-minute animation was developed that includes information on navigating the unit, interacting with staff and families, preventing infection, and more.

WATCH & SHARE THE VIDEO ▶



Parent and Caregiver Resources

We created a 15-minute animation for parents who have babies admitted to the newborn unit to help them understand what to expect and how vital their role is in their baby's survival.

WATCH & SHARE THE VIDEO ▶

SPOTLIGHT: DATA

PROGRESS FOR DATA-DRIVEN ACTION

NEST360 supports country teams to strengthen structures and build capacity in existing government systems for data use and improvement of quality at the national, sub-national, and facility levels.

NEST360 also supports country teams to extract and share learnings with the wider SSNC community. The approach recognizes the need to implement multilevel interventions, including incorporating globally applied models and methodologies to improve quality and reach rapidly.

Data for action, improving quality and learning for SSNC in NEST360 and beyond

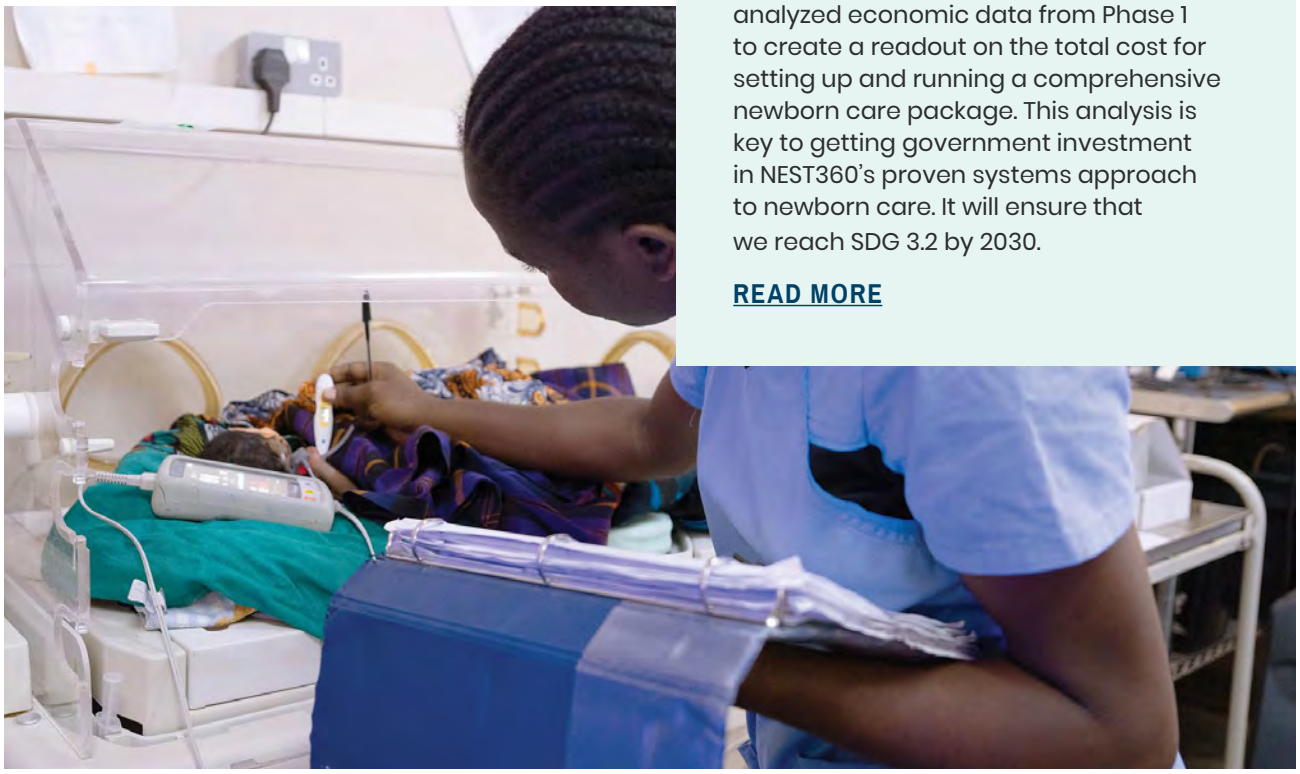
Our key actions:

- **Strengthen tools and processes for Data for Action**
- **Use our improving quality model to support the implementation of priority interventions with quality in SSNC in NEST360 countries**
- **Learn from our work in implementing data for action and improving quality to strengthen NEST360 activities to support global evidence generation and dissemination**
- **Use Monitor, Evaluation, and Learning to support program and country teams in measuring change and data use for learning and action**

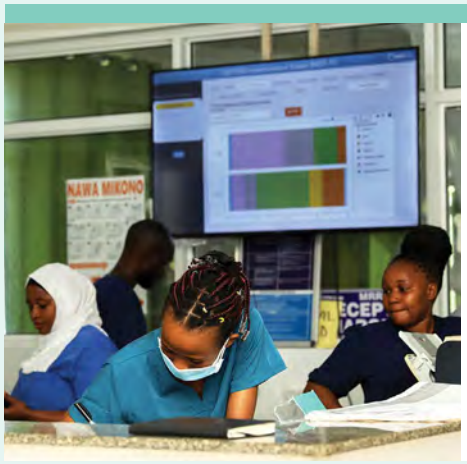
Accomplishments and lessons learned

Money counts! During the last year, our data for action team refined and analyzed economic data from Phase 1 to create a readout on the total cost for setting up and running a comprehensive newborn care package. This analysis is key to getting government investment in NEST360's proven systems approach to newborn care. It will ensure that we reach SDG 3.2 by 2030.

READ MORE



RESOURCES TO INSPIRE DATA-DRIVEN ACTION



Implementation Tracker (NEST-IT)

This online dashboard creates visuals for healthcare workers, hospital administrators, and Ministry of Health representatives to analyze data tracking facility performance across several metrics, such as mortality and hypothermia. This dashboard has been implemented in our **five supported countries** and **68 newborn units**.

LEARN MORE ▶



Hadli Monitoring

This online tracker provides insights into how often a device was used and tracks power outages in the facility to assist biomedical engineers with maintaining various medical devices in the newborn care unit.

LEARN MORE ▶



Asset Infinity

This online system helps distribution teams track medical devices. It shows the inventory, installation status, and location of devices. It also allows users to track any issues or downtime through tickets and schedule activities.

LEARN MORE ▶

SPOTLIGHT: COUNTRY-LED CHANGE

TRANSFORMING NEWBORN CARE ACROSS AFRICA

Ethiopia

Ethiopia has an estimated 97,000 newborn deaths per year. The MOH has set a goal to decrease the number of deaths rate by a third by the end of 2025.

In 2024, the Saving Little Lives (SLL) program partnered with NEST360 to being adapting and implementing quality Level 2 small and sick newborn care in Ethiopia. This partnership adopts aspects of NEST360 and SLL into a new package coined SLL360. This program uses a "hub and spoke" referral system to create a network of hospitals across four regions in Ethiopia.



9,482
newborns served

16
expected hospitals



"For a mother who has been pregnant for nine months to lose the baby at birth is heartbreaking. We must work together to ensure every mother and child receives the care they deserve. Looking ahead, SLL360 remains dedicated to reducing newborn mortality, strengthening newborn care systems, addressing policy gaps, and fostering sustainable interventions. Because at the core of our work, it's not just about the project, it's about the lives we impact."

DR. MARIAMAWIT ASFAW
MATERNAL, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERVICE LEAD EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kenya

Currently, Kenya has implemented our systems approach in 17 hospitals. Most of these facilities are making progress toward improving performance metrics, such as reducing hypothermia and increasing the use of CPAP.

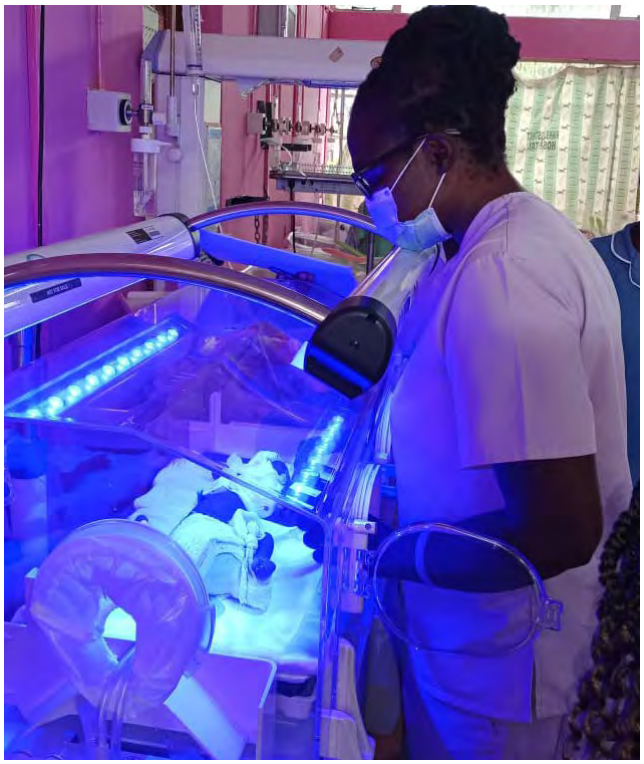
Last year, Kenya led quality improvement efforts by training 50 healthcare professionals to join facilities' Quality Improvement Teams, which led to an increase in logins to our data tracking system and knowledge sharing among facilities and staff. As a result, one facility was able to reallocate medical devices to address the needs of 10 other facilities.

21,791
newborns served

17
hospitals







Malawi

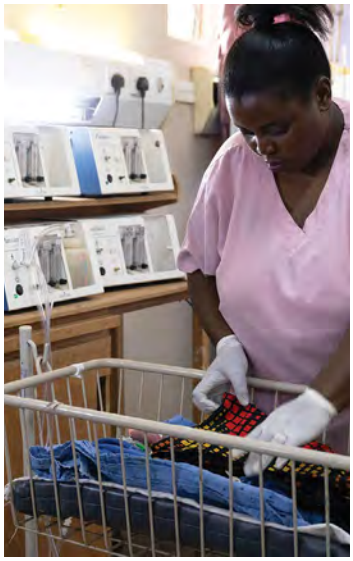
In 2024, Malawi enhanced the quality of newborn care across all 38 district hospitals. They improved data entry processes and developed actionable outcomes based on the collected data. They also collaborated with the Ministry of Health and its Digital Health Division to create a data entry system that integrates with the national data system and the maternal data system. This system allows for important information, such as mortality rates and cases of hypothermia, to be recorded at the bedside. Additionally, it enables facilities to track and provide care for both mothers and their babies.



55,635
newborns served

38
hospitals





"To reduce neonatal mortality and meet SDGs, we must urgently increase coverage and quality of small and sick newborn care, and the foundation is a skilled workforce. We are excited about our new partnership between NEST360 and COINN because together we can increase the number of staff (especially neonatal nurses) and, importantly, competence and confidence faster yet sustainably."

EDITH GICHEHA
CLINICAL TRAINING DIRECTOR, NEST360

Nigeria

In Nigeria, the team focused on improving the quality of care and reducing newborn deaths by providing training, mentorship, and enhancing facility infrastructure. Over the last year, the Nigerian government and NEST360 worked closely together to improve newborn health and enable an environment for national scale. They implemented national changes, which included guidelines like the Nigeria Every Newborn Action Plan (NiENAP) and a Neonatal Nursing Training Program initiated by NEST360 and the Nigerian Society of Neonatal Medicine (NISONM), which graduated its first 30 participants this past year, creating a network of skilled providers.



4,329
newborns served

16
hospitals

"I have learned how important it is to know how to dismantle equipment parts to get to the root cause of any device malfunction. Before, I used to look at the equipment at the surface level of troubleshooting. Now, I know how to address almost any issue with the NEST360 equipment."

BABTUNDE ADENIYI, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER
NEST360 SKILLS TRAINING COURSES IN NIGERIA



Tanzania

Our team in Tanzania partnered with the Ministry of Health, regional health, and facility management to create an action plan to reduce newborn deaths at seven hospitals and scale to nine new hospitals. In 2024, we conducted weekly checks on data quality with the help of facility data clerks to improve how we document information and ensure high-quality coverage. Each facility nominated champions to lead efforts to encourage these new processes and engage healthcare workers to fill gaps and improve coverage.

READ MORE



15,144
newborns served in 2024

16
hospitals



"We have learned that the best solutions come from a collaborative process. The diverse group of experts within NEST360 has set us on the best path forward to improve newborn care. Our governments and ministries of health have invited NEST360 to join them in their effort to strengthen quality newborn care, ensuring we are saving babies' lives."

NAHYA SALIM
NEST360 STEERING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

A look ahead at the future of newborn care across Africa

NEST360 is reshaping the future of newborn care across Africa. By scaling proven interventions, building sustainable health systems, and empowering local healthcare teams, we are driving a future where no newborn dies from preventable causes.

Our work is not just saving lives; it's creating the foundation for healthier generations to come. The momentum we've built is undeniable, and with the support of our partners, we will continue to expand this lifesaving model—ensuring that every newborn has the opportunity to thrive.

For more information on how to get involved, contact:
INFO@NEST360.ORG

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!



Newborn Toolkit

Together with UNICEF and hundreds of partners, NEST360 co-developed the Implementation Toolkit for Small and Sick Newborn Care as an open-access, dynamic resource hub.
In 2024, the Newborn Toolkit had over **1,000 resources accessed** by **55,000 users** across **196 countries** worldwide.
The newborn toolkit hosts monthly webinars on topics relevant to the broader newborn health community.
Learn more or suggest a topic here:

NEWBORNTOOLKIT.ORG/EVENTS



World Prematurity Day 2024

This year, The NEST360 countries celebrated World Prematurity Day 2024 with partnering hospitals, representatives from ministries of health, and community leaders.
World Prematurity Day is an international day to raise awareness for babies who are born too soon.

WATCH TVC NEWS NIGERIA

WATCH KENYA'S K24TV

EVERY NEWBORN DESERVES THE SAME CHANCE AT SURVIVAL

NEWBORN ESSENTIAL SOLUTIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES

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