



# NIHR Global Health Research Group on stillbirth Prevention and Management in Sub-Saharan Africa Newsletter

September 2018 – Issue 2

**T**he NIHR Global Health Research Group on Stillbirth Prevention and Management in Sub-Saharan Africa at The University of Manchester is a three-year programme funded by the National Institute of Health Research (UK) implemented by The University of Manchester in partnership with LAMRN ([www.lamrn.org](http://www.lamrn.org)), a network of six African countries (Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The programme aims to promote knowledge sharing and capacity building in the area of stillbirth prevention and management in low resource setting. Through this work the research group will gain an understanding of the issues in improving stillbirth prevention, childbirth and bereavement care in low income settings; develop culturally relevant studies for further investigation in this unexplored area and establish itself in the Global arena as a catalyst for change.

## First Annual Workshop

**T**he project team met for their first annual workshop on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Teams of researchers from the 6 participating LAMRN countries and the UK attended.

The workshop began with Professor Dame Tina

Lavender (Director) giving an update on the programme of work included in the Stillbirth Global Health Research Group as a whole as well as providing a general update on LAMRN activities. Africa Country Leads presented the progress and achievements of their individual Work Streams, which included governance and ethics approvals, launch of their studies in-country including; MoH involvement, stakeholder meetings, recruitment of PPI groups, mentoring of RAs and recruitment rates of study participants. Research training was provided by the UK team, which covered data collection processors and the use of REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture), research master files and record keeping. The workshop was considered a great success and provided lots of networking opportunities for all.



## COUNTRY UPDATES

### Malawi: Audit on Stillbirths

The UK team, Dr Rebecca Smyth and Ms Valentina Actis Danna visited the project team: Professor Angela Chimwaza, Chisomo Petross and Isabella Chisuse in Malawi from 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018. During their visit they met with stakeholders from both study sites; Bwaila Maternity (Lilongwe) and Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre. Discussions regarding protocol development and introduced the concept of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI).



### Ugandan: Respectful and Supportive Care after Stillbirth



The Ugandan team hosted a successful two-day training session from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>st</sup> April, for the newly appointed research assistants Ms Allen Nabisere and Mr Jonan Mweteise who were unable to come to Manchester. This was led by Mrs Enid Mwebaza, Elizabeth Ayebare and Valentina Actis Danna. After gaining ethical approvals at Mulago and Kayunga Hospitals, recruitment of women, partners and health workers has now commenced to explore experiences of care after the death of a baby.

### Zimbabwe: Cross sectional study on stillbirth

The Zimbabwe team; Kushupika Dube, Grace Danda, Sikhululekile Mremi have recently organised a Learning and Sharing event on bereavement care after a stillbirth and PPI with midwives from Mpilo maternity, Bulawayo, The United Bulawayo Hospitals, St. Lukes Hospital, Lupane (District in Matabeleland North) and the Royal Hospital, Bulawayo.



## Tanzania: Delays in effective intrapartum care



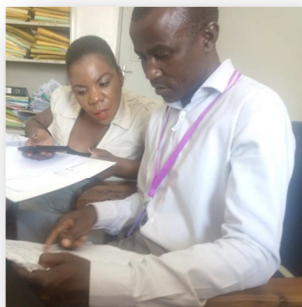
A two-day tailor-made training session took place in Mwanza from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Newly appointed research assistants; Deborah Kimaro, Flora Kuzenza, Happiness Shayo were provided with an overview of the NIHR Stillbirth Research group and the individual country work streams. The training was then structured around the Tanzanian protocol, a mixed method study aiming to understand the complexities surrounding delays in effective intrapartum care. The Research Coordinator, Dr Wakasiaka provided one-to-one mentoring to the RAs and supported the Country Lead Dr Rose Laisser.

## Kenya: Respectful and Supportive Care after Stillbirth

Despite some initial delays and setbacks in gaining ethical approval, the Kenyan team have now commenced recruitment for interview with parents and professionals at Nymura and Kisii Hospitals. They are also building on lessons learned during the inception study (2017) to actively engage with the management team of the Kenyatta National Hospital (Nairobi) and the stakeholder group to raise the profile of stillbirths. These activities have directly inspired a review of services with the unit and recognition of the need to improve the environment of care for parents after the death of their baby. This translated into **the allocation of two specific rooms** in the postnatal area from March. These can accommodate up to 4 women, who are now offered privacy away from other postnatal women and babies. The Kenya team report increased perceptible increase in awareness and interest in stillbirth care in their units. RAs Raheli Mukwana and Anne Nendela have also visited the Kenyatta Fistula centre to inform staff about the study and have observed the fistula clinic to get to know context and prepare for recruitment.



## Zambia: Delays in Effective Intrapartum Care



The Zambia team, Kutemba Lyangenda and Khuzuet Tuwele supported by country lead Chowa Tembo have commenced data collection after receiving ethical approval last month. The team were joined by UK member Ms Valentina Actis Danna in Mansa in August who provided bespoke training in Redcap, the Research Electronic Data Capture system being used. This work is ongoing with the retrospective case note review.