



Newborn Health Procurement Tool

unicef 
for every child

Supply Division



Overview

The challenge

Children face the greatest risk of death in their first 28 days of life. Globally, [2.7 million children die in their first month](#), with approximately 6,700 newborn deaths every day, amounting to 47% of all child deaths under the age of five years.

The main causes of neonatal mortality include preterm birth, intrapartum-related complications, infections, and birth defects. These conditions are often easily treatable with the right training and equipment. While there exists several products, tools, and guidance to limit newborn deaths, there are considerable challenges involved in understanding which equipment to procure.

At various levels of the health system, staff may not be aware of what products are available and necessary to provide quality newborn care, for example, by ensuring newborn sizing in accessories for oxygen delivery. Within health facilities, clinicians may have a knowledge of what products they need, but often do not know where to procure them at affordable prices. At a macro level, stakeholders may not understand all the pieces required for newborn care (including each device and correct sizing/amount of accessories/consumables) when budgeting and procuring products for a set region.

The response

The *Newborn Health Procurement Tool* is a decision assist platform developed by UNICEF to help the healthcare system - from small health clinics to high-level decision makers - understand which technologies and equipment health facilities need to provide essential newborn care. A "one stop shop," the tool helps to select and procure newborn products and innovations via UNICEF.

It quantifies procurement decisions so healthcare providers know which product is missing, where to find it, how much it will cost, and how to go about procuring it. After health staff provide the missing data about the number of patients, health facilities and products available in a region, the tool uses formulas to calculate the requirements and determines options

for procurement. This includes the entire cycle of use for products with consumables and spare parts forecasted for future needs.

In addition, the tool considers the specific needs of each facility, for example, the availability of power and risks for electricity black outs and if the facility has piped oxygen or not. The platform can be used to create a brand-new newborn care unit at a facility, expand a current unit, or update one with new equipment.

The need for a procurement tool came about as one method to reach the target that *80% of districts in every country must have at least one inpatient newborn care unit*. This goal was set out in 2020 by UNICEF, WHO and partners from the [Every Newborn Action Plan](#) to improve the quality of care for newborns around the world. Current and new innovative products will be added to the tool, and some of these devices are listed below.

Currently available in the [UNICEF Supply Catalogue](#):

- *Radiant warmers*, a body warming device
- *Bubble CPAP* to provide respiratory support
- *Photo therapy lights* for jaundice treatment

Products to be added to the catalogue, based on gaps identified by UNICEF newborn health experts.

- *Transcutaneous Bilirubinometer* to detect jaundice.
- *Thermal support during neonatal transport*
- *Glucose measurement device* to diagnose and manage hypoglycemia

The impact

If implemented appropriately, this tool can help governments, stakeholders and the health system save more newborn lives by ensuring the correct type and amount of affordable newborn products are available at health facilities.

Key figures

Issue

45% of under-5 child deaths occur in newborns

2.7 million children globally died in their first month every year

2.6 million babies die in the last 3 months of pregnancy or during childbirth (stillbirths)

First 28 days of life is the time period that poses the greatest risk of death for children

Response

80% of health districts in every country to have at least one inpatient newborn care unit (project goal)

20+ products to be added to the catalogue and integrated within the *Newborn Health Procurement Tool*

4 countries are currently implementing the pilot version of the tool (Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan). The experience will help improve the tool so it can be scalable to other countries.

