

Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa

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Maternal health research concerns men too

At first glance, maternal health only seems to focus on women and children. After all, it is *maternal* health. But women's health during pregnancy and childbirth is also linked to a wide variety of non-biological and non-medical factors.

Read an IDRC [Perspective article](#) by Ahmed Tareq Rashid, a program officer in the Maternal and Child program.

Research in action

Getting the healthcare basics right for pregnant women in Nigeria

The Government of Nigeria has made maternal and child health a priority. The country's 33,000 primary health centres are central to the strategy because they are the gateway to Nigeria's entire health system. In 2017, the government launched a plan to revitalize more than 10,000 of these centres, especially in rural areas. Research funded through IMCHA is generating empirical evidence to support this revitalization effort with evidence-based recommendations.



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News

IMCHA researchers recognized for their research excellence and leadership

Dr Jenn Brenner of the University of Calgary won the [Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health \(CanWACH\) Award of Excellence](#) for her work to advance women and children's health. The award recognized her efforts to champion the collection, analysis, use, and sharing of data and monitoring and evaluation to communicate the impact of Canadian efforts in global health. Brenner is the Canadian principal investigator of the IMCHA project ["Replicating the MamaToto program in rural Tanzania."](#)

Kevin McKague of Cape Breton University was awarded the Canada Research Chair in Social Enterprise and Inclusive Markets. The prestigious position is granted to exceptional emerging scholars who have been recognized by their peers for their potential to lead in their field. McKague is the Canadian principal investigator of the IMCHA project ["Social enterprise models for community health workers in Uganda and South Sudan."](#) [Learn more](#) about McKague's research.

Field work for IMCHA's mid-term evaluation completed

A three-member team of Small Globe has completed their field work in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda) and in West Africa (Burkina Faso and Nigeria). The consultants conducted interviews and focus group discussions with research teams and health policy research organizations. They also organized discussions with health officials at the national and district levels, as well as with Canadian High Commissions.



Featured publications

[Promoting evidence informed policymaking for maternal and child health in Nigeria: lessons from a knowledge translation workshop](#)

Results and lessons from a knowledge translation (KT) workshop in Bauchi, northeastern Nigeria, are presented in this article. The workshop aimed to improve the KT competence of researchers and policymakers in maternal and child health and to enhance evidence-informed policymaking. The findings suggest that using a targeted KT capacity building program can increase the knowledge of all stakeholders, which is critical for facilitating evidence informed policies.

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[Each woman: Health plus contraception and provider support](#)

The poster provides progress updates of the IMCHA project “[Building an enhanced cadre of community health workers to improve maternal and newborn health in rural Tanzania](#)” and the related synergy grant, “[Enhancing community health workers support for maternal, adolescent and newborn health project plus contraception in rural Tanzania.](#)”



Innovating for Maternal and Child Health

The Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa initiative seeks to improve maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes by strengthening health systems, using primary healthcare as an entry point. This seven-year, \$36 million initiative is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Global Affairs Canada, and IDRC.

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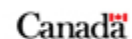
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