



Hi Friend,

Some math problems require innovative and adaptive solutions — like those implemented by certain countries to scale uptake of life-saving interventions for mothers and babies.

**Narratives from three Exemplar countries in Neonatal and Maternal Mortality reduction offer a few examples of this type of arithmetic:**

Bangladesh expanded access to family planning, promoted antenatal care, and reduced barriers to facility-based delivery;

Ethiopia engaged deeply with communities to drive demand for services;

And Senegal reduced financial barriers to delivery, improved coordination of community health workers, and prioritized family planning initiatives.

**The sum of their strategies?**

Bangladesh had one of the fastest declines in neonatal mortality, outpacing most countries in South Asia (4.7% average annual reduction rate vs. 3.0% regionally for South Asia);

Ethiopia saw one of the most rapid reductions in maternal mortality in the world;

And the decline in neonatal mortality, maternal mortality, and stillbirth rates in Senegal all outpaced progress regionally in Western and Central Africa.

This is not everyone's reality. Around the world, every two minutes a woman dies either during pregnancy or childbirth. Globally, an estimated 2.4 million newborns each year die within the first month of life. But in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Senegal, the decline in neonatal and maternal mortality means more women and children are living longer, healthier lives.

When we select Exemplar countries, we aim to identify positive global health outliers considering broader social or economic progress in a country. And while we identify best practices across all Exemplar countries, we also learn that often, there are multiple paths to success.

I invite you to explore the varied, and tremendously effective, strategies featured throughout our research in [neonatal and maternal mortality reduction](#). There, you will see that wins from any of us equal wins for all of us; my favorite kind of math.

Best,

**Niranjan Bose, PhD**  
Managing Director, Health and Life Sciences



**P.S.** We can't wait to show you how Nepal is delivering on its own strategies in neonatal and maternal mortality reduction. [Register here](#) to be notified when this research is live.

**Learn more about each countries' strategic solutions that drove success in neonatal and maternal health.**

**Senegal**

**Ethiopia**

**Bangladesh**

#### Stories

**'Research, advocate and activate': How CHIC's strategy is paying dividends for CHWs**

The Community Health Impact Coalition, led by Dr. Madeleine Ballard, is working to make professional community health workers the norm worldwide. [Read the full conversation here.](#)

**UN: 'We've broken through the glass ceiling of under-five child mortality'**

The number of children under five around the world who die annually has fallen by 51% since 2000. In countries like Malawi, more children are living longer, healthier lives following the government's decision to invest more in essential health services. [Read the full story here.](#)

#### JOIN US

We're a passionate and dedicated community of public health leaders working to accelerate progress in global health. [Register](#) to join the conversation.

