



# Implementation Research on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Services in Bangladesh

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**TIMELINE:** April 2018 – January 2019

**PARTNERS:**

- UNICEF
- Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (MNC&AH), DOHS

**DONOR:** UNICEF

Preterm birth and low birth weight are attributable to 46% of all newborn mortality in Bangladesh. Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is a safe and effective method of caring for low birth weight, preterm infants, and its potential to improve newborn survival is well established globally. As a part of the target to end preventable child deaths by 2035, the Government of Bangladesh has declared KMC as an essential intervention to be introduced and scaled up across all levels of public health facilities nationwide; however, only a limited number of health facilities have introduced KMC service in Bangladesh. Moreover, implementation challenges and facilitators are not known which is important for scaling up.

## RESEARCH APPROACH

Before scaling up KMC, a research study to assess the fidelity, current status of service delivery mechanism, the implementation challenges, and the facilitating factors would shed helpful information for a successful scale-up in Bangladesh. This nine-month-long (April 2018-January 2019) Implementation research was conducted in eight public health facilities of four districts (Dhaka, Kurigram, Kushtia, and Tangail) of the country, which adopted a mixed-method approach.

## EVIDENCE GENERATED

Although this is a cheap and feasible intervention, the results show that compliance with the national guideline has some shortcomings in practice. Leadership and a skilled workforce have played an essential role in ensuring KMC practice. Specific elements of KMC practice, such as timing, nutritional maintenance, discharge criteria, and follow-up, were not consistent with recommendations. Infrastructure, human resources, support from development partners, and responsiveness from the supply and demand sides have played an important role in realising the integrity of this human-centric approach.



KMC corner at Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH)



Practicing KMC

## IMPACT



National Newborn Health Conference

The research findings were presented at the National Newborn Health Conference on 17th November 2019 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC). The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) organised the conference. The daylong conference also celebrated world prematurity day.

At the conference, the research findings and recommendations for scale-up were very seriously considered. This human-centric and effective intervention is now being gradually scaled up throughout the country. Currently, 192 KMC corners are functioning nationwide.

From the Center of Excellence for Science of Implementation & Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), One video and one infographic have been developed on the results of this research. The video link of Kangaroo Mother Care is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZngAHNPrfw&t=11s> The link of the infographic is as follows- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q4elQ0LMOWkPEweQ5ehyHoPlpuAONf1L/view?usp=sharing>

A manuscript titled “Fidelity of Kangaroo Mother Care services in the public health facilities in Bangladesh: A Mixed-Method Study” is currently under review for publication.