

# Revealing causes of death among children under 5 in areas with little information

## Purpose:

Since 2016, Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) has been generating data on definitive causes of stillbirth, neonatal, and early child deaths in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. CHAMPS provides these data to communities, public health authorities, and policy makers who can take action to save lives.

## Why it matters:

1. Africa and South Asia account for 82% of under-five child mortality worldwide.
2. In these regions, many children die at home or with little medical evaluation, so accurate information on causes of death is lacking.
3. Without CHAMPS, public health authorities and policy makers lack the accurate information needed to best intervene.
4. Informed by CHAMPS data, successful efforts to accelerate funding partnerships and targeted interventions will dramatically reduce stillbirths and child deaths in the highest burden areas.



## CHAMPS found that about 8 of every 10 deaths were from preventable causes

- Causes of death differ by age group, but late or poor-quality care a common thread
- Untreated pregnancy and delivery complications, not a medical condition in the baby, account for 7 out of every 10 stillbirths
- Leading causes of deaths in newborns are:
  - Infections from multidrug-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, a bacteria acquired in neonatal units
  - Complications of prematurity and delivery
- 7 of every 10 deaths in infants and children are from multiple conditions occurring together; 8 of 10 have at least one infectious disease
- Severe malnutrition is common, leading to common fatal infections like pneumonia, malaria and diarrhea
- In communities with HIV, half of all child HIV diagnoses only discovered through CHAMPS' postmortem testing

## About us:

CHAMPS is a global surveillance network that generates and shares accurate cause of death data on child mortality. We identify definitive causes of stillbirths and child deaths through community engagement, real-time mortality surveillance, diagnostic innovation, and rapid, open access to data. We transform data into action, working with partners at the local, national and global levels to ensure they have the information needed for sustainable changes in policies and programs that will accelerate improvements in child health.

## CHAMPS

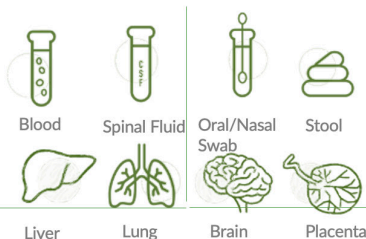
# How Do We Produce High Quality Data?

### 1. Data collection

- Parents provide consent
- Family interviews-- "Verbal Autopsy"
- Clinical Records Review

### 2. Examination

- Photographs
- Physical Measurements
- Specimen collection



### 3. Laboratory testing

- Culture for bacteria
- Rapid tests for HIV, TB, Malaria
- Molecular (PCR) tests for infectious organisms
- Pathology examination of tissues

CHAMPS  
Insights

CHAMPS

## Solution and impact:

CHAMPS results show that the global community must act to strengthen health system delivery and close the gaps in programs that too often fail to reach mothers and babies at the right time with the right measures to save lives.

Maximizing health impact involves:

- Improving prenatal and obstetric care to reduce stillbirths and neonatal deaths
- Evaluating programs and closing gaps to prevent HIV, malaria, and pneumonia in children
- Combating antimicrobial-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* infections in neonatal units or with a new vaccine
- Understanding what components are missing from diets and ensuring families have access to nutrient-rich food sources.
  - In Ethiopia, the use of a vitamin-fortified salt could prevent up to 15,800 stillbirths and 2,200 neonatal deaths annually

## How you can help:

Working together, we can bridge the gaps to save young lives in resource-limited settings by:

- Enhancing national efforts to reduce child mortality through local engagement and technical support
- Supporting community-led implementation of solutions and access to proven maternal and child health services
- Using CHAMPS data to inform global health policies and programs and close gaps in reaching under-served populations
- Partnering with CHAMPS to support and expand capacity to investigate causes of death in high-mortality settings

For more information:

CHAMPS is actively seeking partners to support this vital work. To learn more, contact our Senior Director of Programs and Partnership Development, Mischka Garel - [mgarel@taskforce.org](mailto:mgarel@taskforce.org)  
Visit our website: [www.champshealth.org](http://www.champshealth.org)