

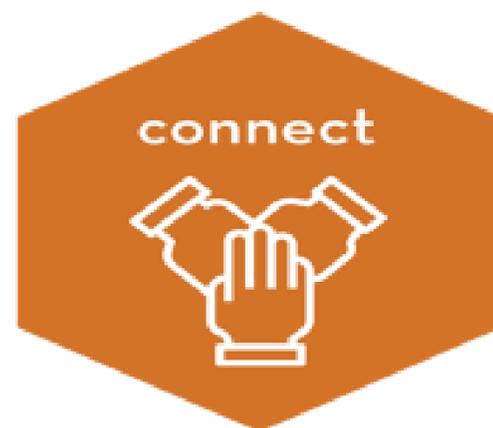
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Healthy children in a healthy world.

We advance health and healthy living for children and families through cutting-edge research, innovative community-based programs, and dissemination of evidence-based practices.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS



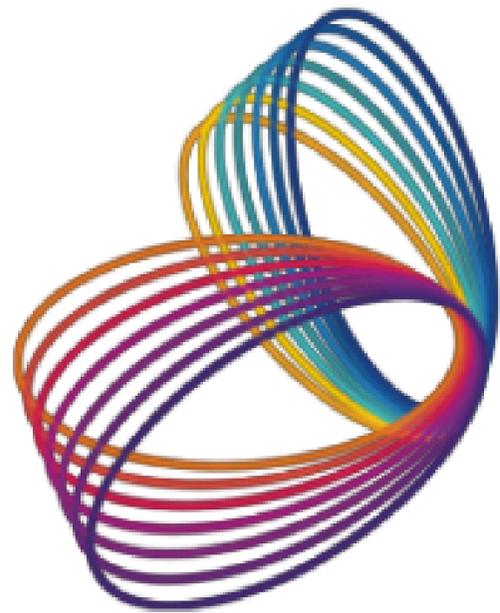
Co-Host



African Mothers
HEALTH INITIATIVE



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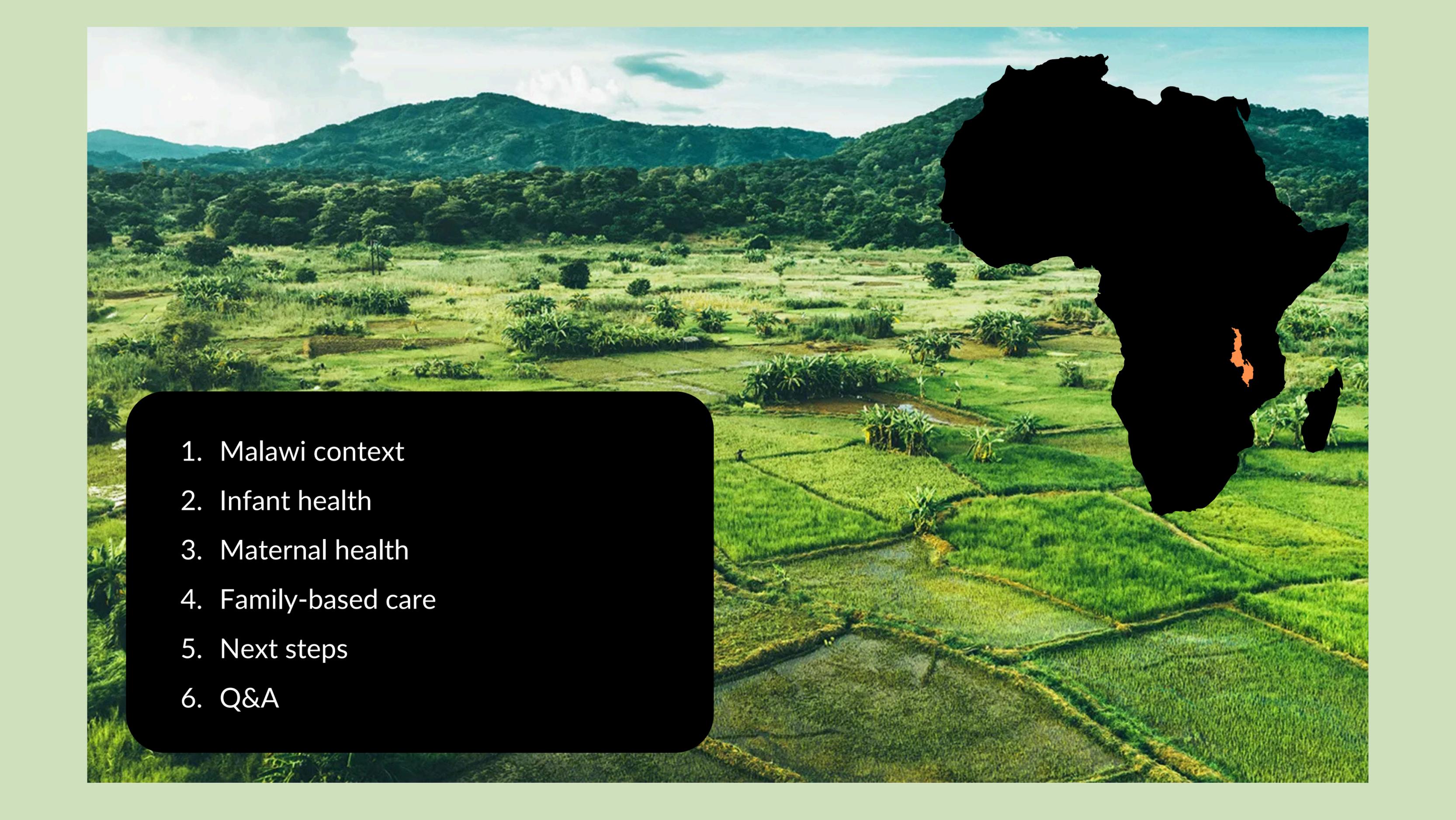
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1. Malawi context
 2. Infant health
 3. Maternal health
 4. Family-based care
 5. Next steps
 6. Q&A







The Problem

Certain infants face an excessively high risk of dying during their first year. This risk is linked to the death or severe illness of their mothers or because they are twins or triplets.

The Solution

Family-based care for high-risk infants in Malawi improves survival.

Data on Survival of Motherless Infants in sub-Saharan African

2019 meta-analysis of 11 original studies of 11 cohorts from multiple countries within sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Haiti

- clear connection between child survival and maternal death
- risk correlated with age of child at time of maternal death

Nguyen DTN, Hughes S, Egger S, LaMontagne DS, Simms K, Castle PE, Canfell K. Risk of childhood mortality associated with death of a mother in low-and-middle-income countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMC Public Health*. 2019 Oct 11;19(1):1281. doi: 10.1186/s12889-019-7316-x. PMID: 31601205; PMCID: PMC6788023.





Data on Survival of Multiples in sub-Saharan African



2017 analysis of DHS from 30 sub-Saharan African countries.

- “Twins account for an increasing share of <5 deaths in sub-Saharan Africa: currently 11% of <5 mortality... Excess twin mortality cannot be explained by common risk factors for under-5 mortality, including birthweight.”

Monden CWS, Smits J. Mortality among twins and singletons in sub-Saharan Africa between 1995 and 2014: a pooled analysis of data from 90 Demographic and Health Surveys in 30 countries. *Lancet Glob Health*. 2017 Jul;5(7):e673-e679. doi: 10.1016/S2214-109X(17)30197-3. Epub 2017 May 31. PMID: 28578941.

Data on Survival of Infants with Sick Mothers in sub-Saharan African



2017 South Africa

Probability of a child death begins to rise 6-11 months prior to a mother's death.

Clark SJ, Kahn K, Houle B, Arteche A, Collinson MA, Tollman SM, Stein A. Young children's probability of dying before and after their mother's death: a rural South African population-based surveillance study. *PLoS Med.* 2013;10(3):e1001409. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001409. Epub 2013 Mar 26. PMID: 23555200; PMCID: PMC3608552.

In Malawi

High-risk infants
Other infants



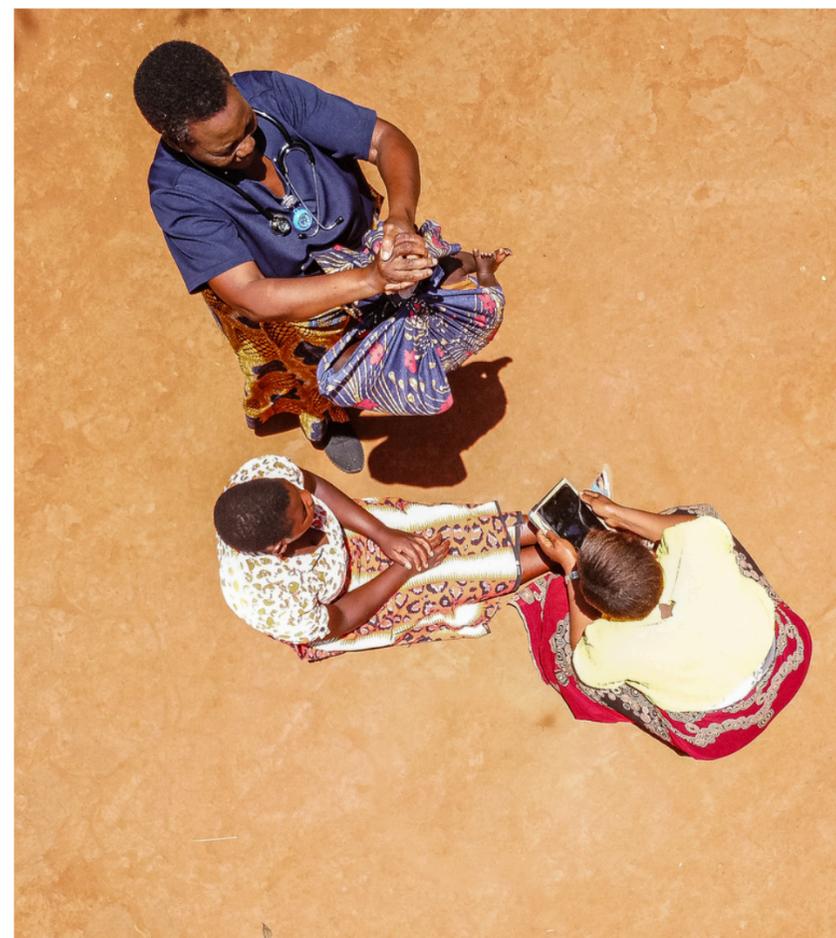
High-risk infant deaths
Other infant deaths



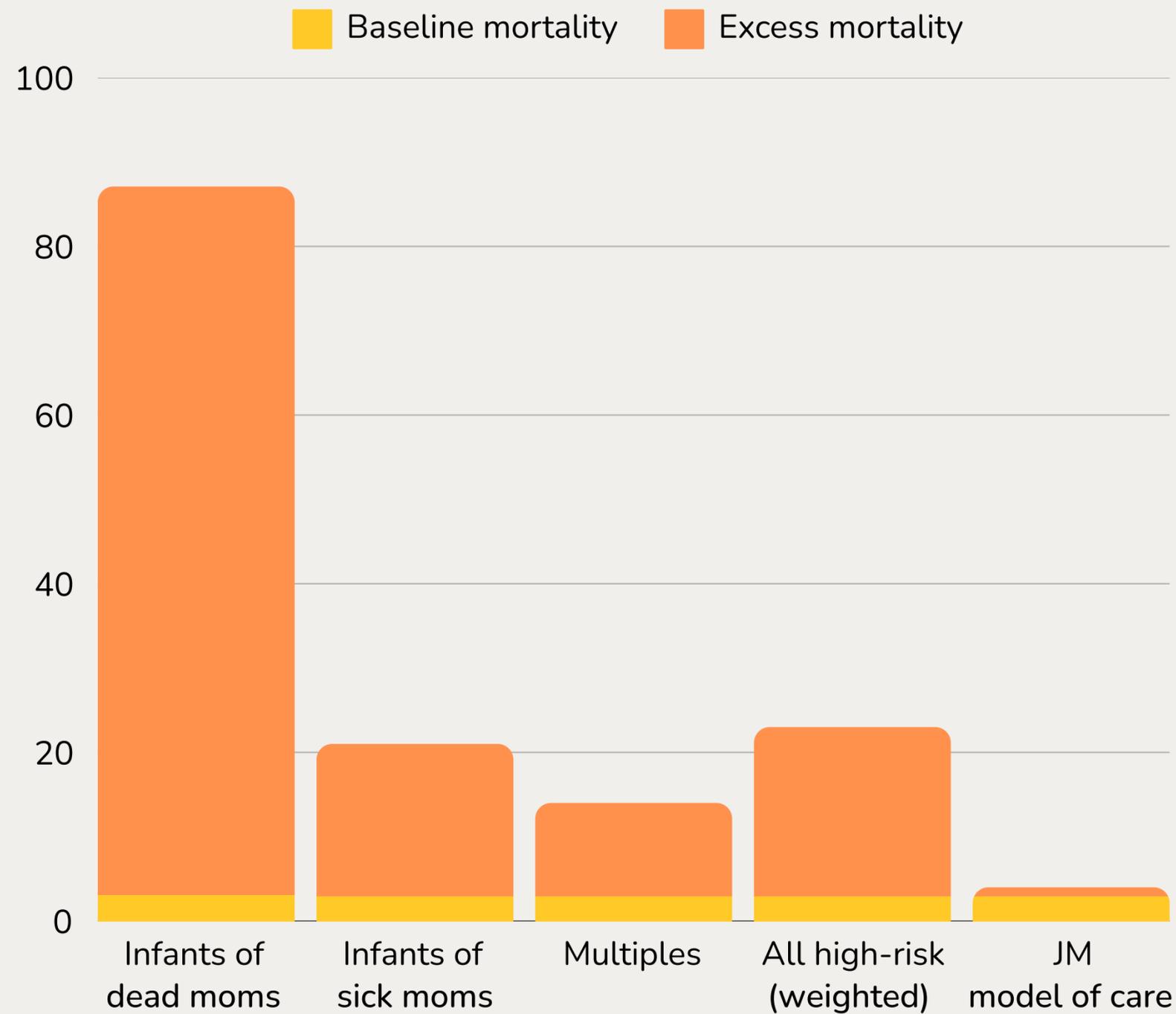
High-risk infants = babies 0-12mo whose mothers are critically sick or dead, twins & triplets (multiples)

Family-Based Care =

- Health assessments
- Health education
- Nutrition support
- Community mobilization
- Cash transfers



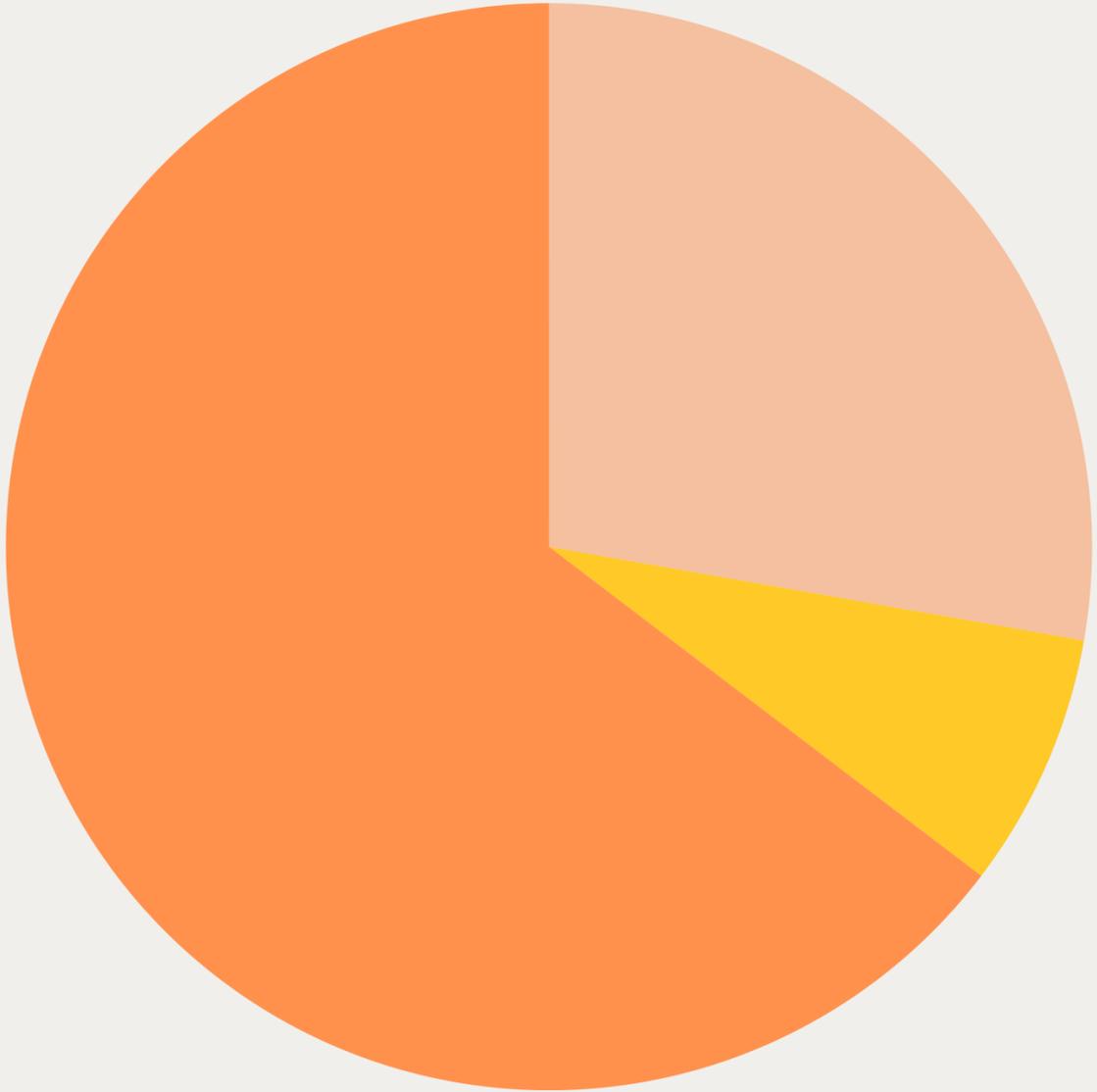
Mortality rate of high-risk infant groups compared with the baseline mortality rate





Potential infant deaths averted if all high-risk infants receive Joyful Motherhood (JM) model of care

- High-risk deaths averted
- High-risk deaths
- Other Infant deaths



100% = total infant deaths



Maternal Health in Malawi



The Burden of Maternal Morbidity

- Not easily quantified
- SMM trending up
- Impacts: maternal & infant survival, child health, maternal mental & financial health

Zafar S, Jean-Baptiste R, Rahman A, Neilson JP, van den Broek NR. Non-Life Threatening Maternal Morbidity: Cross Sectional Surveys from Malawi and Pakistan. PLoS One. 2015 Sep 21;10(9):e0138026.

Geller SE, Koch AR, Garland CE, MacDonald EJ, Storey F, Lawton B. A global view of severe maternal morbidity: moving beyond maternal mortality. Reprod Health. 2018 Jun 22;15(Suppl 1):98.



Maternal Health Care in Lilongwe, Malawi

Sepsis rate 22%

Maternal deaths not captured

Our clients:

Prolonged hospitalizations > 21days

40% hysterectomies with average age 24

Poor wound healing due to poor nutrition

moderate to severe depression at discharge



The Problem

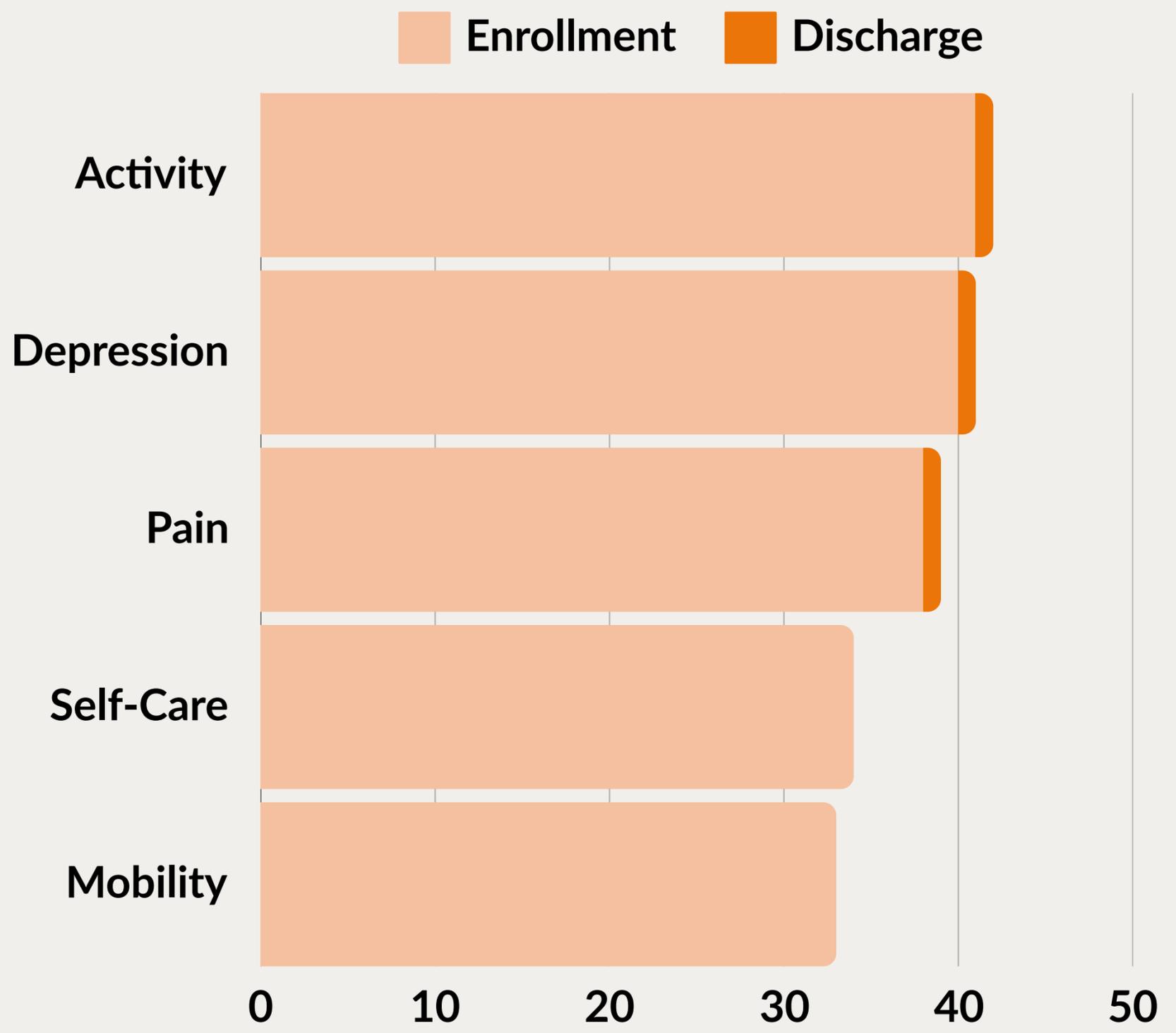
The number of women experiencing prolonged periods of illness following difficult or “near-miss” deliveries eclipses the number of women who die during childbirth in Malawi. These women experience a prolonged impact on their physical, mental health, and on the health of their children.

The Solution

Family-based care for women who have experienced "near-miss" deliveries in Malawi improves their quality of life.



Quality of Life Indicators



Conclusions

- Maternal and child health continue to be inextricably linked beyond the neonatal period.
- The approach to addressing infant malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa must expand beyond breastfeeding education.
- Health-related quality of life indicators enrich our understanding of maternal health in SSA
- Initiatives addressing maternal health in LICs should aim to reduce mortality and improve HRQoL.



“When they came, they saw me and the baby both looking sickly and malnourished, maybe it was demons. When they came, they helped the baby by giving us a flask, some milk, they also gave me a pack of soya flour which they said I should make porridge. I started eating that porridge the same day, people then started saying I was looking better, that life was returning to me.”

“I would say that they should keep doing what they are doing and we would really be grateful if the program reached out to other areas because many children have passed away because they lack support. Because in an area that does not have the program and once a mother passes away, the baby eventually passes away because they don't have support.”

“I have seen a lot of change this far because this one fell sick some time and was heading to being malnourished. I used the skills that I had acquired from Chimwemwe mu'berekki, I saw that the baby had started to gain weight and even started standing and now the baby can walk.”

“I have little stress now because the child is alive and growing.”

“I never expected that this baby would be able to walk and meet the milestones like is happening now, all this has been possible because of the support that these people are providing to us.”

Call to Action

- Funding
- Research
- Advocacy

www.africanmothers.org

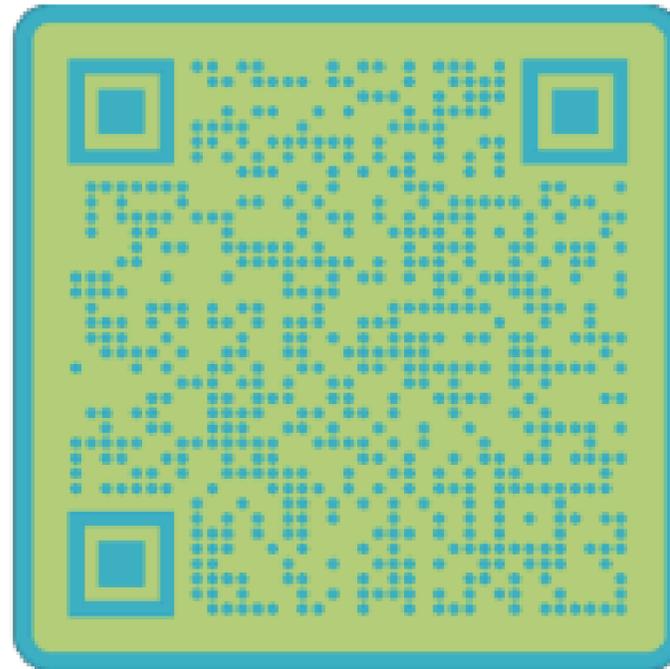


Questions?

**Please post your questions
in the chat for the audience
Q&A session**

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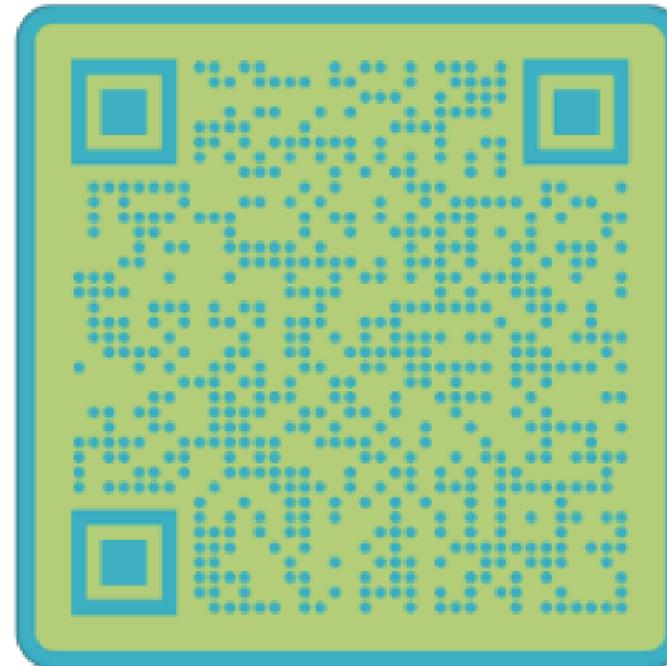
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Health Promotion for Children in Rural Settings

February 20, 2025

11 AM-12 PM CT



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