

Ghana Maternal and Child Health Record Book Project

Project for Improving continuum of Care for Mother and Children through the introduction of combined MCH Record Book, called MCH RB Project, started in April, 2018 in collaboration of Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service (GHS) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Overall Goal: More women and children complete Continuum of Care (CoC)*.

Project Purpose: More Women and Children utilize quality MCH services.

Expected Outputs:

1. MCH RB is developed and rolled out to nationwide.
2. Capacity of effective utilization of MCH RB is strengthened among health workers and mothers.
3. MCH RB is institutionalized and integrated into routine services for sustainability.

* Continuum of Care is a series of reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health care, including antenatal care, delivery with assistance of skilled birth attendant, postnatal care and child growth and development check at CWC.

Background

GHS developed a combined Maternal and Child Health Record Book (MCH RB) with technical and financial support from JICA. Ghana has been utilizing two separate home-based record books for mothers and children over the last few decades. However, there are various challenges to promote CoC as there is a big crack between delivery and post-natal care because the books were separated.

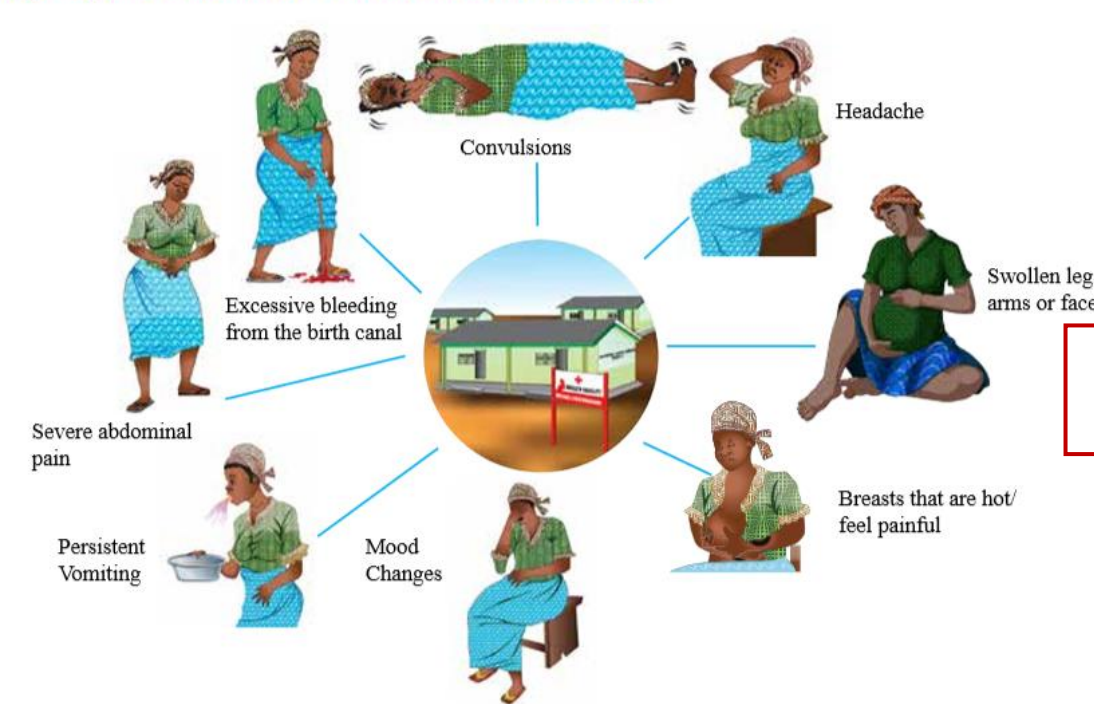
The main purpose for integrating record books is to fill the gaps of maternal and child health services with better coverage of CoC which neither maternal record book nor child record book covers.



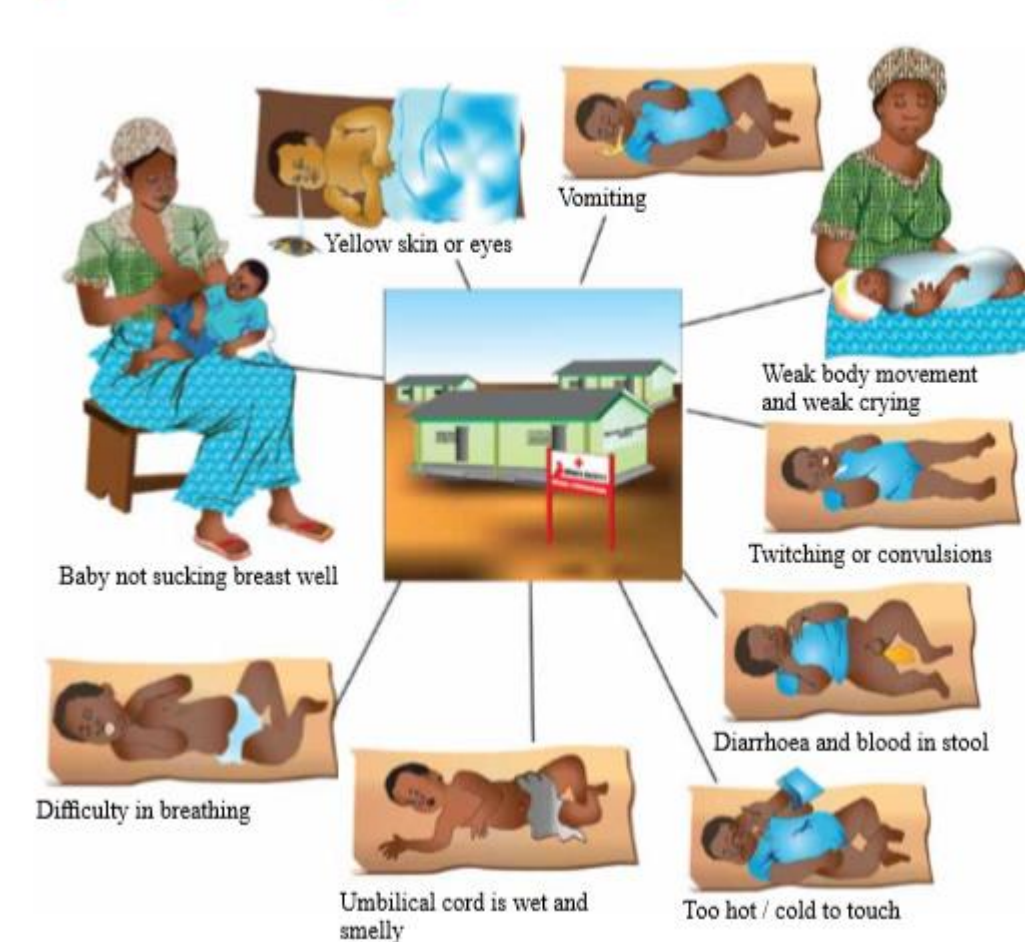
The characteristic of the new combined MCH RB

1. **CoC card:** CoC card lists essential CoC services at a glance and motivate and remind mothers to uptake CoC services
2. **Nutrition messages:** Various nutrition messages such as how to eat well during pregnancy and how to feed a child are included .
3. **All information included:** Early Childhood Development, Malaria, PMTCT and Immunization records and messages in one book
4. **Illustrations:** Health messages were provided in English with many illustrations, so that all mothers can easily understand health education messages, especially danger signs when the solid explanation is provided by health workers.
5. **Health, nutrition and hygiene messages for family members, including males:** The RB will promote family support and male involvement by adding images of fathers in the RB.
6. **Space to be filled by parents:** The MCH RB includes 'Sweet Memories' where parents can take notes on their baby and a space of family picture.

3. Danger signs and disorders in mother after delivery.



5. Signs of a serious illness in baby.



From the MCH RB

Pretest

A pretest of the draft book was conducted on October 2016 in three different sites (Bongo, Bolgatanga, and Accra) to identify the levels of understanding, acceptance, socio-cultural acceptance, attractiveness and compliance/motivation for behavioral changes among mother, fathers and grandparents as well as utilization, acceptance and work efficiency among health workers. The book was well accepted by mothers, family members and the community. They had few instructions and illustrations difficult to understand. Health workers pointed out some recommendations to modify the book to improve the work efficiency. The draft of MCH RB was modified according to the results of the pretest. A pilot version of the book was finalized at the beginning of 2017.



The year 2017

Pilot-test

A pilot test was conducted from June 2017 till February 2018 at 15 selected health facilities in six districts in three regions (Upper West, Ashanti and Central) to test if there are comparative advantages of MCH Record book to on-going maternal health records and child health records and to test if the books are utilized effectively for all different service delivery points at all stages of care (ANC, delivery, PNC, CWC). The main finding of the study is that CoC completion rate among intervention group was higher than in control (Intervention 76%, Control 63%).



A health worker in Ashanti region said, "Now I think mothers are becoming more conscious of their health. Maybe it is because of the pictures in the new book. Now some mothers can come and report that they have seen blood or they have headache and so on even when they are not on schedule for ANC".

From the Pilot-test interview

The year 2018

Launching Ceremony

After two years of the development and testing, the MCH RB was finally launched. HE Ms. Samira Bawumia, the Second Lady of Ghana, announced the launching of the book and handed over the first MCH RB to mothers on 2 March 2018 in Central Region.



Activities 2018

MCH RB was printed and distributed nationwide. Two National Trainings of Trainers (ToT) and 18 Regional ToT were conducted in all 10 Regions. Through these trainings, approximately 880 trainers were trained and the User Guide of MCH RB was developed and revised. Also, trainers' guide was developed for health worker trainings to be conducted by the trainer at districts.



The year 2016

Development of the MCH RB

The effort to develop the MCH RB started in early 2016. Under the leadership of GHS and JICA, a series of meetings with key stakeholders, Development partners, Private sector, Malaria, TB, HIV, EPI programs. etc. were conducted. At the workshops, a conceptual framework was defined and essential key information which should be included in the new MCH RB was collected.



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- Project for Improving Continuum of Care for Mothers and Children through the introduction of combined MCH Record Book -

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The year 2019

Activities 2019

- Monitoring and Supervision for MCH RB utilization will be conducted in all 10 Regions.
- Visual Aid will be produced for health workers' trainings and self-learning.
- Training materials on nutrition clinic, respectful care and BCC will be developed. And the trainings will start at seven focus districts in Ashanti Region.
- IEC materials will be produced to facilitate family's understanding of MCH RB.
- Management Guide will be developed to print and manage MCH RB with various stakeholders.

