

# Global Action in Nursing (GAIN): A Nurse-Midwife Training & Mentoring Program to Improve Maternal/Neonatal Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa

Kimberly Baltzell<sup>1</sup>, Sally Rankin<sup>1</sup>, Sharon Rose<sup>1</sup>, Cory McMahon<sup>2</sup>, Maria Openshaw<sup>2</sup>, Esnath Kapito<sup>3</sup>, Mphatso Sayenda<sup>3</sup>, Alden Blair<sup>1</sup>, Chembe Kachimanga<sup>4</sup>, Emily Wroe<sup>3</sup>  
1: University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing; 2: Partners In Health, Boston; 3: Abwenzi Pa Za Umoyo/Partners In Health, Malawi; 4: Partners In Health, Sierra Leone.

## BACKGROUND

- Global Action in Nursing (GAIN) is an innovative program designed to address one of the most urgent problems in sub-Saharan Africa: maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.
- Our program focuses on improving the quality of care provided by nurse-midwives and nurse-midwife technicians in our district's hospitals and health centers.
- Key program partners are Partners In Health and the Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance.

## PURPOSE

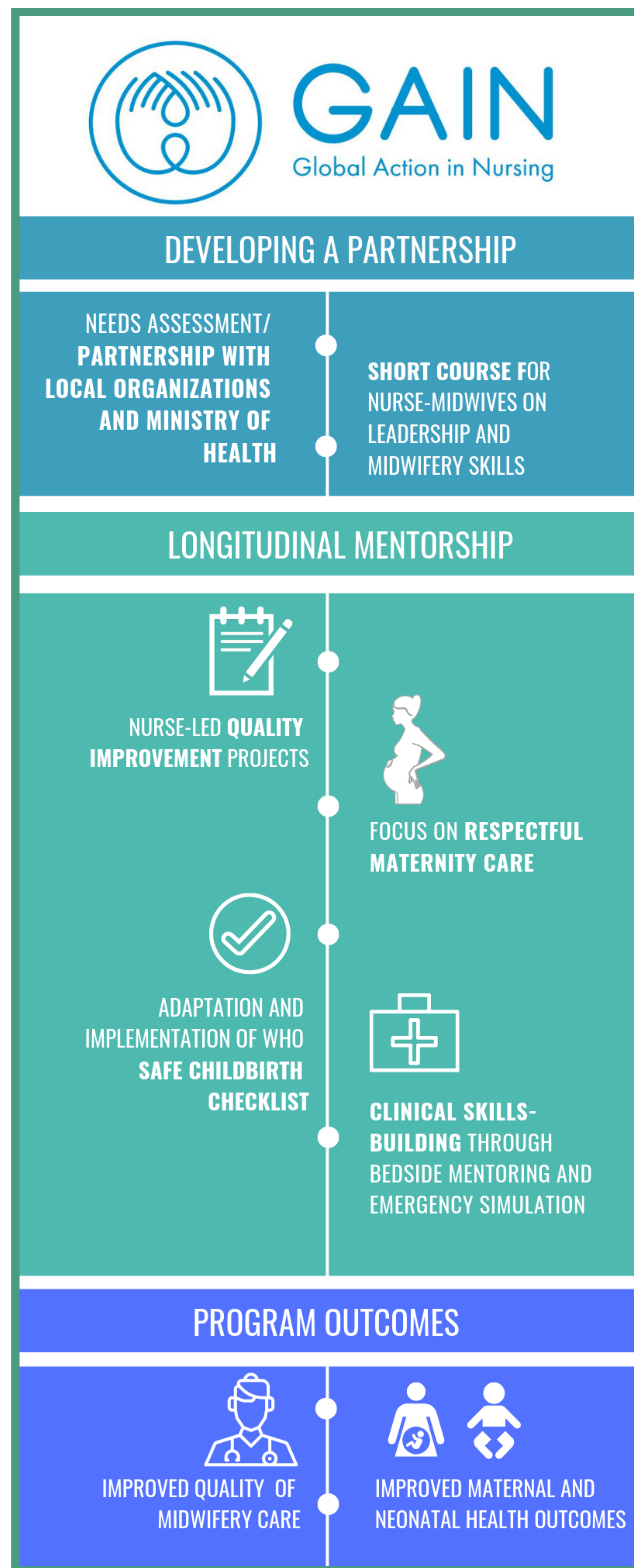
- Primary outcome: improved maternal and neonatal outcomes at facilities where midwife participants work.
- Secondary outcomes: improved performance of essential safe childbirth practices; implementation of nurse-led quality improvement projects.



GAIN Mentor Mphatso Sayenda (right) leads trainees Paul and Modester in neonatal resuscitation practice. Both midwives practice in rural health facilities where they are usually the only skilled birth attendant present during deliveries.

## METHODS

- Nurse-midwives and nurse-midwife technicians working in participating maternity facilities are invited to attend an initial training.
- Following the training, all participants receive twelve months of on-site mentoring by expert nurse-midwife mentors.
- Participants are supported to design and implement quality improvement projects at their work sites.
- Nurse-midwives in leadership roles at participating facilities also have the opportunity to receive mentorship training to help embed clinical practices.



GAIN trainees practice applying the Non-Pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment (NASG) at the nurse leadership training launch in Blantyre District



The second cohort of GAIN nurse-midwife trainees in Neno District celebrates after receiving their completion certificates.

## FINDINGS

- In 2017-2018, a total of 45 nurse-midwives completed the GAIN training course and received 12 months of clinical mentorship in Neno District.
- In Neno, six nurse-led quality improvement projects were designed and implemented in response to locally identified gaps in quality of maternal and neonatal care.
- Rates of maternal and neonatal complications in the district declined between 2017 and 2018 while mortality was unchanged
- In early 2019, the program was expanded to urban Blantyre District; based on the local needs assessment, a train-the-trainer model was developed, including mentorship training for local nurse leaders.
- In early 2019, adaptation of the SCC was performed to incorporate local Malawian protocols.

Statistics for Participating Health Facilities, Neno District 2017-2018			
	2017	2018	P-VALUE
OBSTETRIC COMPLICATIONS	980 (19.2%)	786 (15.80%)	P=0.018
NEONATAL COMPLICATIONS	998 (19.61%)	810 (16.28%)	P=0.003
MATERNAL DEATHS	7 (0.14%)	4 (0.08%)	P=0.437
NEONATAL DEATHS	142 (2.79%)	146 (2.94%)	P=0.743

## NEXT STEPS

- Invitations to expand program to additional sites in Malawi and Sierra Leone.
- Expansion to additional content areas (i.e., infection prevention and control, emergency/trauma care, cancer care) at existing sites per facility request.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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