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Topic: Ghana's Kangaroo Mother Care So Far: Achievements and Prospects

With support from the Government of Colombia, the Eastern Regional Hospital, Koforidua (ERHK) was selected in Ghana to host the maiden Kangaroo Mother Care Excellence (KMC) Centre. Consequently, three specialists (medical doctor, psychologist and nurse) from the hospital were offered a two-week training by the Kangaroo Foundation, Bogotá, D.C. in November 2015. In the beginning of 2016, the first model KMC clinic was evaluated by team from the Kangaroo Foundation as one of the centres in Africa for the care of preterm/ low birth weight (LBW) babies and training in KMC. With support from the Ministry of Health/ Ghana Health Service, Embassy of Colombia in Ghana, and agencies like PATH, the ERHK's KMC Excellence Centre has seen several achievements. It has trained over 50 professionals and several interns in Ghana. Currently, 10 new clinics have been established across Ghana through the centre between 2017 and 2018. Also, the gross survival of preterm/ LBW babies following KMC implementation showed a declining effect on neonatal deaths and short hospital stay following this. Additionally, the centre participated with stakeholders to develop Ghana's national KMC protocol for care. Notwithstanding these achievements, the centre hopes to expand its national training capacity with support from Government of Colombia, Kangaroo Foundation and other stakeholders to include other neighbouring countries in West Africa like Burkina Faso, Togo, Mali etc. This will not only enhance KMC coverage but also improve the sub-regional cooperation among Colombia, Ghana and these sister countries.