



Name of Activity: Perinatal Investment Case

Submitted by: *Women Engaged in Development*

Prepared by: *Prof Kihara Anne B, Dr Sabina Wakasiaka, Yungo Matson*

Venue: *Hybrid discussion of perinatal mortality data*

Date of Activity: April to May 2026

Background/Purpose

Still, both macerated stillbirths and fresh stillbirths are largely neglected, underreported and under-researched. They indicate for macerated still-born, poor or neglected antenatal care, and for fresh still births, intrapartum complications with inappropriate fetal surveillance or compounded by poor decision making. These both culminate in unwarranted fetal losses. Unfortunately, the national stillbirth rate is at 19/1000 live births and has remained largely plateaued, yet it should be <12/1000 live births. In counties where the quality of care has improved, fresh stillbirths have declined, but macerated stillbirths go unchecked. There is poor retention of the maternal – fetal dyad; standardization of the definition of perinatal mortality; breaking of sad news; and determining the definitive underlying cause through autopsy and bereavement processes have not been well articulated. The tabulation of 2025 Makueni data on still births was undertaken to inform the desk review and provide further insight into why the perinatal investment case matters.

Objectives of the Activity

1. Collection of the perinatal mortality data in Makueni County in the year 2025.
2. Desk review on perinatal health based on EWENE stillborn, the Lancet series on born too soon, small, and sick vulnerable newborns.
3. Insights obtained from the NIH- LSTM six-county data on still births, addressing evidence gaps and needed processes.
4. Health economics to justify the perinatal investment case.

Milestones:

1. Perinatal Data collection and analysis in Makueni County in 2025
2. Desk review on perinatal mortality
3. Compilation of the perinatal investment case
4. Perinatal mortality to be considered in the address to the development of the acceleration plan for EWENE

Activity proceedings

The OMMI team of WED undertook the above activities and synthesized the perinatal investment care report. Review and input considered by the Reproductive Health team in Makueni County, and with oversight of the Director of Health Promotion and Preventive Strategy. External review was provided by Bo Jacobson, who has been engaged as the director of FIGO maternal and newborn health and the Lancet Series Born too soon and small and sick vulnerable newborn, and officials from COINN.



Key Findings, Conclusion, and Way Forward

1. Draft zero was developed for the perinatal investment case. Upon review, strengthened with input from the Makueni team and external reviewers.
2. It is envisioned that we shall be able to engage the team when the development of the acceleration plan for Makueni County is undertaken by the end of May 2026
3. Lastly, Prof Bo Jacobson has since engaged with national academic institutions and Makueni County to explore a possible collaborative partnership to support perinatal and neonatal interventions, ensuring that they survive and thrive. An additional online Zoom call has since been made as a follow-up with Makueni County, and it is anticipated that this can be further advanced at the World Health Assembly.





PERINATAL INVESTMENT CASE



Prof. Kihara Anne B, Dr Sabina Wakasiaka, Yungo Matson



List of Contributors to the Perinatal Mortality Investment Case

Item No.	Name	Organization	Official role
1.	Prof. Kihara Anne – Beatrice	Women Engaged in Development under OMMI	Executive Director OMMI Partnership
2.	Prof. Bo Jacobson	Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway.	Head of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Pediatrics Head of the Perinatal Research Laboratory Senior Researcher
3.	Dr. Sabina Wakisiaka	KAVI- ICR	Stillbirth researcher
4.	Dr. Stephen Mwatha	Makueni County	County Director, Preventive and Promotive Health and Public Partnerships
5.	Yungo Matson	Women engaged in Development	Program Assistant OMMI partnership
6.	Christine Myindi	Makueni County	RH Coordinator
7.	Theresia Maweu	Makueni County	RH Department
8.	Simon Kavisi	Makueni County	Data management

