Intervention videos produced by the Global Health Media Project improved community health workers’ knowledge about neonatal health six months after a two-day training in Ethiopia.

INTRODUCTION

- In 2017, 2.5 million neonates died globally; the majority of deaths occur in low-resource settings
- Ethiopia has the 21st worst neonatal mortality rate globally, with 29 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017
- There is a gap in the literature about how to effectively deliver health education in order to improve community health workers’ competency to recognize neonatal danger signs
- New innovative health education platforms need to be developed, implemented, and evaluated for community health workers about neonatal health.

METHODS

- A curriculum was designed using neonatal health videos that were created by the Global Health Media Project (https://globalhealthmedia.org/)
- Urban community health workers employed by John Snow Inc’s program in Gondar, Ethiopia were recruited for the project
- Community health workers participated in a two-day workshop led by a pediatrician at the University of Gondar Hospital
- A 45-point multiple choice question test was developed to assess community health workers’ knowledge about neonatal health
- Assessment areas: maintaining body temperature, neonatal danger signs, home visit skills, care of the umbilical cord, and care of the small baby
- Pre- and post-tests and 6-month final test were done

RESULTS

- 67 community health workers participated in the pre- and post-test, and 42 community health workers who participated in the 6-month final test
- Community health workers watched 18 videos over two days
- The mean pre-test score was 29/45 (64%), the post-test score was 36/45 (80%), and 6-month final test score was 32/45 (71%)
- Paired t-test was significant between pre- and post-test (p<0.0001) and between pre- and 6-month post-test (p<0.0002)

DISCUSSION

- Community health workers retained neonatal health knowledge 6 months after watching instructional videos
- Videos may provide a platform to scale large community health worker education programs globally
- Further research is needed to assess how improved neonatal knowledge correlates with health outcomes