Strategies and recommendations: topic areas

- Multi-sectoral collaboration
- Mobile phone technology
- Public private partnerships
- Referral for newborns
- Indicators for referral
- Sharing evidence
Referral – an orphan cause

- “Under-documented, under-researched and under-theorized”
- Everybody’s responsibility and therefore nobody’s responsibility
  - Referral requires inputs from ministries of health, finance, roads and transport, communication and others
- Like most systems, the referral system is complex
- Much of a referral system is intangible
- We lack good indicators for referral
Success requires multi-sectoral collaboration

- Health
- Finance
- Communications
- Transport
- Public works / roads
- Social welfare
- Security and defense
Mobile phone technology

- Increasing reach of mobile technologies
- Greater synchronization with referral desirable

- Reduces delays in transport and treatment
  - Rapid identification of appropriate referral destination
  - Alerting arrival of referral
  - Enables telemedicine for triage and treatment

- Facilitates referral feedback
Public private partnerships

- Many successful examples exist but under explored
  - Toll free telephone numbers – call 108
  - Free calls between physicians
  - Private health workers/facilities paid by government for childbirth services
  - Trade or taxi unions
Impact of referral on perinatal outcomes

- Further documentation on the neonate is critical

- How referral requirements for mother and baby differ?
  - How best to transport the baby?
  - Given a smaller window of opportunity to intervene with a sick newborn, what referral strategies should be adopted?
Indicators for referral

- Basic standards for referral are lacking
- Indicators should be based on those standards
- Indicators would lead to better assessment tools with which to identify deficiencies in the referral system

- A wide range of indicators (process, outcome and impact) is desirable

- Benchmarks or targets are largely unknown.
Sharing evidence & research utilization

- Substantial evidence exists that is not well utilized
- Pooling of evidence is needed
- Recognition that less than perfect evidence should not be a barrier to further action