Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) is a neonatal resuscitation curriculum created for resource-limited circumstances. It was developed on the premise that assessment at birth and simple newborn care can improve chances for survival.

Course Description:

This project is a train-the-trainer course designed to help improve infant and maternal mortality rates in rural health clinics in Madagascar. To implement this project, Mercy Ships will facilitate the Helping Babies Breathe course for rural health volunteers from the U.S. Peace Corps. Prior to participating in the course, the volunteers will collect data on newborn resuscitation and survival rates, and maternal deaths to help guide potential future training projects. Volunteers will then participate in a one-day training program and given all necessary materials to reproduce the course in their rural environments. After completing the course, volunteers will aim to train 4-6 rural birth attendants, nurses, and midwives in their respective villages. A follow-up team will visit the Peace Corps Volunteers to assess retention of knowledge and skills and their ability to train rural health workers. The follow-up will also provide an opportunity to help address any problems with implementation. After training, the Peace Corps Volunteers will also collect data on newborn resuscitation and survival rates and maternal deaths to learn if there is any resulting change in clinical outcomes and will use this information for quality improvement purposes.