

Supplemental Table 1. Definitions of Birth Preparedness in Previous Studies

Citation	Items Included in Index/Scale	Definition of Birth Preparedness
Hiluf M, Fantahun M. Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness among women in Adigrat town, north Ethiopia. <i>Ethiop J Heal Dev.</i> 2008;22(1):14-20.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified a place of delivery • Saved money • Identified a means of transport to a place of childbirth or for the time of obstetric emergencies ahead of childbirth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported all three items (100%)
Agarwal S, Sethi V, Srivastava K, Jha PK, Baqui AH. Birth preparedness and complication readiness among slum women in Indore city, India. <i>Journal of health, population, and nutrition.</i> 2010;28(4):383-391.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified trained birth attendant • Saved money • Identified transport • Identified health facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥3 out of 4 items (75%)
Hailu M, Gebremariam A, Alemseged F, Deribe K. Birth preparedness and complication readiness among pregnant women in Southern Ethiopia. <i>PLoS One.</i> 2011;6(6). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0021432.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranged for transportation • Saved money for delivery • Identified skilled attendant to assist at birth • Identified a health facility for emergency • Identified blood donor in case of emergency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥2 out of 5 items (40%)
Kabakyenga JK, Östergren PO, Turyakira E, Pettersson KO. Influence of birth preparedness, decision-making on location of birth and assistance by skilled birth attendants among women in South-Western Uganda. <i>PLoS One.</i> 2012;7(4). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0035747.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified skilled health professional • Saved money • Identified transport • Had delivery kit/materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥3 of 4 items (75%)
Nawal D, Goli S. Birth Preparedness and Its Effect on Place of Delivery and Post-Natal Check-Ups in Nepal. <i>PLoS One.</i> 2013;8(5). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0060957.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saved money • Arranged for transport • Identified blood donor • Identified health worker • Prepared delivery kit • Prepared food • Prepared clothes • Made other preparations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used PCA to create scale with four categories: no preparations, poor, moderate, well prepared
Debelew GT, Afework MF, Yalew AW. Factors affecting birth preparedness and complication readiness in Jimma Zone, Southwest Ethiopia: a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan where to give birth in a health facility • Plan for skilled birth attendant • Plan to save money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥3 of 5 items (60%)

<p>multilevel analysis. <i>Pan Afr Med J.</i> 2014;19:1-14. doi:10.11604/pamj.2014.19.272.4244.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for transportation • Identification of compatible blood donors in case of emergency 	
<p>Markos D, Bogale D. Birth preparedness and complication readiness among women of child bearing age group in Goba woreda, Oromia region, Ethiopia. <i>BMC Pregnancy Childbirth.</i> 2014;14(1):282. doi:10.1186/1471-2393-14-282.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified place of delivery • Planned for a skilled assistant during delivery • Saved money for obstetric emergency • Planned of mode of transport to place of delivery during emergency • Planned for a blood donor during obstetric emergency • Detected early signs of emergency • Identifying institution with 24 hour emergency obstetric care services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥ 4 of 7 items (57%)
<p>Kaso M, Addisse M. Birth preparedness and complication readiness in Robe Woreda, Arsi Zone, Oromia Region, Central Ethiopia: a cross-sectional study. <i>Reprod Health.</i> 2014;11(1):55. doi:10.1186/1742-4755-11-55.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified place of delivery • Saved money • Identify skilled provider at birth • Identified a means of transport to place of childbirth or for the time of obstetric emergencies ahead of childbirth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥ 3 of 4 items (75%)
<p>Tura G, Afework M, Yalew A. The effect of birth preparedness and complication readiness on skilled care use: a prospective follow-up study in Southwest Ethiopia. <i>Reprod Health.</i> 2014;11(1):60. doi:10.1186/1742-4755-11-60.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned to save money • Planned to arrange transport • Planned to give birth in health facility • Planned to be attended by skilled attendant • Planned to arrange blood donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥ 3 of 5 criteria (60%)
<p>Bintabara D, Mohamed MA, Mghamba J, Wasswa P, Mpembeni RNM. Birth preparedness and complication readiness among recently delivered women in chamwino district, central Tanzania: a cross sectional study. <i>Reproductive Health.</i> 2015;12(1):44.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knew the expected date of delivery (EDD) • Identified a skilled birth attendant or health facility for delivery/emergency • Identified mode of transport for delivery and obstetric emergency • Saved money • Identified two compatible blood donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥ 3 of 5 items (60%)
<p>Wilunda C, Quaglio G, Putoto G, et al. Determinants of utilisation of antenatal care and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified transport, • Saved money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥ 2 of 5 items (40%)

<p>skilled birth attendant at delivery in South West Shoa Zone, Ethiopia: A cross sectional study. <i>Reprod Health.</i> 2015;12(1):1-12. doi:10.1186/s12978-015-0067-y.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified a blood donor • Decided on the facility where the baby will be born • Identified a skilled birth attendant 	
<p>Gebre M, Gebremariam A, Abebe TA. Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness among Pregnant Women in Duguna Fango District, Wolayta Zone, Ethiopia. <i>PLoS One.</i> 2015;10(9):e0137570. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0137570.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified a trained birth attendant • Identified a health facility for emergency; • Identified mode of transport for • Delivery and/or for obstetric emergency • Saved money • Identified blood donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥3 of 5 items (60%)
<p>Belda SS, Gebremariam MB. Birth preparedness , complication readiness and other determinants of place of delivery among mothers in Bale Zone , Goba District , South East Ethiopia. <i>BMC Pregnancy Childbirth.</i> 2016:1-12. doi:10.1186/s12884-016-0837-8.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified place of delivery • Identified skilled birth attendant • Saved money • Identified means of emergency • transport • Arranged a blood donor for emergency • Identified emergency signs • Identified health institution with 24 h EmOC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not defined
<p>Bitew Y, Awoke W, Chekol S. Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness Practice and Associated Factors among Pregnant Women, Northwest Ethiopia. <i>Int Sch Res Not.</i> 2016;2016:1-8. doi:10.1155/2016/8727365.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify place of delivery • Saved money • Identified skilled provider • Aware of key danger signs and act on immediately, • Designated decision maker • Identified source of support in case of emergency • “Arranged transport, EMOC, blood donor, and emergency” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥3 of 7 items (43%)
<p>Lakew Y, Tessema F, Hailu C. Birth Preparedness and Its Association with Skilled Birth Attendance and Postpartum Checkups among Mothers in Gibe Wereda, Hadiya Zone, South Ethiopia. <i>J Environ Public Health.</i> 2016;2016(1994):12-14. doi:10.1155/2016/6458283.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified skilled attendant • Identified health institution for delivery and complication • Saved money • Arranged transportation • Identified blood donor • Arranged essentials (clean clothes, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used principal components analysis (PCA) to develop a scale with three categories: poor, moderate, and well prepared.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivery kit) • Arranged food • Made other arrangements 	
<p>Zepre K, Kaba M. Birth preparedness and complication readiness among rural women of reproductive age in Aabeshige district, Gguraghe zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia. <i>Int J Womens Health</i>. 2017;9:11-21. doi:10.2147/IJWH.S111769.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified place of delivery • Identified skilled health care provider • Saved money • Identified transport ahead of emergency • Identified a blood donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥3 of 5 items (60%)
<p>Andarge E, Nigussie A, Wondafrash M. Factors associated with birth preparedness and complication readiness in Southern Ethiopia: a community based cross-sectional study. <i>BMC Pregnancy Childbirth</i>. 2017;17(1):412. doi:10.1186/s12884-017-1582-3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saved money (planned to) • Identified health facility (planned to) for delivery (health center/hospital) • Identified skilled provider at birth (planned to) • Identified a means of transport to place of childbirth or for the time of obstetric emergencies (planned to) ahead of childbirth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported ≥3 of 4 items (75%)