

## Baby Saver Tray launched

The Sir Halley Stewart Trust is delighted to report the launch of the **BabySaver tray**, which was developed by Professor Andrew Weeks with funding from the Sir Halley Stewart Trust.

Hundreds of thousands of babies' lives could be saved in developing countries each year thanks to this "game-changing" invention – a simple plastic unit where babies can be resuscitated without having to separate them from their mothers. It costs under £40 - a fraction of the price of traditional resuscitation units – and the aim is that they will be rolled out to every hospital in Uganda before being used more widely.



Similar, more complex, devices are available in UK hospitals, but can cost as much as £15,000. They also require electricity - something that is often unavailable for the thousands of babies that are born at home in rural areas in Uganda.



Professor Weeks, who works at Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Liverpool, said: "Each year approximately six million babies across the world require basic neonatal resuscitation and around 900,000 of these will die. The vast majority of deaths occur in low-income settings where there are few facilities for newborn resuscitation at birth. Where resuscitation does occur, it often happens away from the mother, or even in another room, which can be very distressing for the mother and baby. The BabySaver enables resuscitation to

*take place at the bedside, with the umbilical cord still attached. Allowing the cord to stay intact has huge health benefits for newborn babies but it also allows the midwife to stay with the mother at a high-risk time for her."*

The product has been developed in conjunction with Peter Watt, a design engineer at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust, after trials with staff and patients at the Mbale Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH) in Uganda. The prototypes have been manufactured by a team at the Bryn Y Neuadd Hospital in Gwynedd.

The BabySaver prototype was officially launched in Uganda in August, when it was handed over to the World Health Organisation's Uganda representative Dr Olive Sentumbwe. It has the full backing of the country's Ministry of Health. Grand Challenges Canada will be funding its future development, and further testing of the product will now take place to refine it. The final version will be manufactured in Uganda with view to its distribution throughout the country if found to be effective. For more information please visit:

[www.thebabysaver.org](http://www.thebabysaver.org)