Vscan Access™ Ultrasound
Assessing risk. Expanding reach.
An intervention with demonstrated impact

GE Healthcare has collaborated with governments, academic researchers, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assess the maternal health impact of ultrasound use in primary care facilities. Findings of peer reviewed literature have shown that ultrasound can:

Maternal and newborn health remains one of our most pressing priorities. From the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global progress is being made. Despite advances, many countries still need to reduce pregnancy-related mortality.

To help meet this need, GE made a commitment to the UN and invested our global R&D capabilities to develop essential technologies well suited for low-resource settings.

Vscan Access is GE’s innovative ultrasound device designed for primary health workers — including midwives, general practitioners, paramedics, and clinical officers — to help expand the reach of quality care to mothers who need it most.

With Vscan Access, caregivers at primary health centers can:

- Conduct exams that may result in the early detection of potentially life-threatening pregnancy complications
- Estimate gestational age and track fetal growth to help manage pregnancies
- Guide the critical “keep or refer” decision over the course of antenatal care

Empower midwives with basic obstetric scans

Challenge: Health workforce shortages, particularly of physicians in rural areas, are critical barriers to quality maternal care.

Evidence: In rural Zambia, midwives were shown to be competent in basic obstetric ultrasound, with high accuracy in qualitative clinical assessments and retained skills after 6 months.

Mobilize mothers to seek four or more antenatal care (ANC) visits

Challenge: Many pregnant women may delay seeking care until potentially life-threatening conditions arise, and few achieve four or more ANC visits.

Evidence: In Uganda, ultrasound implemented in a primary care facility led to a 72% increase in total antenatal care visits, and four times as many women attending four or more ANC visits.

Improve clinical decision-making and pregnancy management

Challenge: Frontline healthcare workers lack diagnostic tools to detect pregnancy complications and make proper referrals to comprehensive emergency obstetrical care facilities.

Evidence: Making ultrasound available to midwives in Zambia, resulted in 17% of obstetric cases having a change in the clinical management of a patient, particularly with malpresentation and multiple gestations.


Ross, et al. 2013. A Low-Cost Ultrasound Program Leads to Increased Antenatal Clinic Visits and Attended Deliveries at a Health Care Clinic in Rural Uganda. PLOS ONE | 1 October 2013 | Volume 8 | Issue 10 | e78450

A breakthrough in appropriate technology

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 70% of medical equipment coming from the most developed nations does not work in developing world facilities.\(^{vi}\)

GE has sought to rethink ultrasound from the ground up. Our R&D engineers in Bangalore, India and a global team of designers, public health experts, and social scientists conducted three years of iterative field research in more than 20 countries. Insights from patients, midwives, and Ministry of Health officials guided the human-centered design of Vscan Access.

**Clinical Utility**
Innovative apps to educate mothers and increase right referrals.
- Scan Coach tool to help optimize scan plane and probe position
- Growth tracking software to display fetal development over time
- eLearning videos to help guide patients toward proper pregnancy care

**Durability**
Made to move and built to last in tough* environments.
- Damage-resistant screen and drop-tested dust-proof exterior
- Low power consumption and surge protection for voltage spikes
- Battery-powered and lightweight for portability

**Simplicity**
Making ultrasound easy to learn and use.
- Intuitive touchscreen with gesture-based control
- Local language capability
- Streamlined workflows, clinical protocols and automated controls

**Affordability**
Enabling Ministries of Health to achieve national scale-up.
Package pricing can include:
- Comprehensive training program for local capacity development
- Local service support with three-year comprehensive coverage
- GE Healthcare program management and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

\(^{vi}\)See the user manual for supported environmental conditions.

A local team ready for scale-up

At GE, our commitment to collaboration runs deep. With every Ministry of Health, we stand ready to co-create a local framework for progress in maternal and newborn health.

Not just a product – a multi-faceted program.
GE program managers can collaborate with you to successfully deploy Vscan Access. Our education partners can facilitate train-the-trainer courses, customized curricula, and training of frontline health workers. Three-year comprehensive service coverage with local support comes standard with every device.

Not just ultrasound – technology for the continuum of care.
Sustained improvement to maternal and newborn health requires right referrals at the right time, and right treatment at the right place. GE’s technology and training portfolio can help Ministries of Health add capabilities such as incubators, infant warmers, and phototherapy devices to help close the continuum with high-quality care.

Working together, we can help caregivers extend the reach of high-quality care for mothers and newborns around the world.
About GE Healthcare

GE Healthcare provides transformational medical technologies and services to meet the demand for increased access, enhanced quality and more affordable healthcare around the world. GE (NYSE: GE) works on things that matter – great people and technologies taking on tough challenges. From medical imaging, software & IT, patient monitoring and diagnostics to drug discovery, biopharmaceutical manufacturing technologies and performance improvement solutions, GE Healthcare helps medical professionals deliver great healthcare to their patients.

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