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For Immediate Release

Tech startup Simprints wins \$2M innovation prize to prevent maternal and child deaths in the hardest-to-reach regions of the world

After a rigorous review by global health experts, Simprints was selected [among 15 of the world's most promising ideas](#) to save lives at birth in developing countries, edging out over 550 other applicants to secure millions in new funding to develop and refine their innovations. The award comes from Saving Lives at Birth, a 'Grand Challenge for Development' funded by the Gates Foundation, USAID, UKaid, and the Canadian, Korean, and Norwegian governments.

[Simprints](#) builds open source software and biometric hardware to empower mobile tools used by researchers, NGOs, and governments fighting poverty around the world. On July 27th Simprints was awarded the \$2M prize to scale their current project covering 22k patients in Bangladesh with BRAC—the world's largest NGO—to scale nationwide across 24 districts, reaching 4.85M mothers and children over the next three years. Simprints simultaneously received a \$250k innovation award to begin R&D on neonate fingerprinting technology that can improve vaccination rates across the developing world.

Technology leader [Arm](#), whose technologies reach 80% of the global population, has announced it will contribute a further \$200k to expand Simprints' integration with leading global health technology platforms and networks through the [2030Vision initiative](#). The initiative, led by Arm, is a partnership that connects businesses, NGOs and governments to help them to unlock the opportunities technology presents for transforming businesses and improving people's lives around the world.

Dominic Vergine, Head of Sustainability at Arm says, "Investment in innovation and the partnerships which take technologies to scale is the model both for our core business and our role in sustainable development. Arm has partnered with Simprints from its earliest days providing engineering support, funding and mentorship, and joining our 2030Vision initiative will help them to reach global scale and support millions of healthcare workers in years to come."

Simprints has developed biometric technology that is 228% more accurate with the scarred, worn fingerprints typical of "last mile" beneficiaries. Simprints empowers already existing mobile tools used by NGOs and governments to deliver essential services like healthcare at the frontlines. Their goal is to radically disrupt the inaccurate way we currently track and deliver social impact, instead building a world where every person—not guesswork—actually counts in the fight against poverty. Simprints works with world leaders in development including UNICEF, Johns Hopkins University, BRAC, and multiple governments to improve service delivery in the hardest-to-reach regions of the world.

The [Saving Lives at Birth partnership](#), launched in 2011, includes the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada (funded by the Government of Canada), the U.K's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). It is a global call for groundbreaking, scalable solutions to end infant and maternal mortality around the time of birth. Saving Lives at Birth aims to address the 303,000 maternal deaths, 2.7 million neonatal deaths, and 2.6 million stillbirths that occur each year around the world.