



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of India



# CALL TO ACTION SUMMIT 2015

ending preventable child and maternal deaths

27-28 August 2015, New Delhi, India

## BACKGROUND

Over the last 50 years, the world has witnessed extraordinary progress in ensuring healthy lives for children as child mortality rates around the world declined by 70 percent. By the time the world adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, it was well established that maternal health and child survival are at the core of development. The momentum surrounding the overall efforts to reduce child and maternal mortality has accelerated and the total number of child deaths has fallen by 48% from 12.6 million in 1990 to 6.6 million in 2012. The rate at which mortality is declining continues to accelerate. The total number of maternal deaths have also decreased globally by 45% from 523,000 in 1990 to 289,000 in 2013.

It is important to celebrate this progress that India and other countries have made towards ending preventable deaths of children and mothers. At the same time, it is important to commit to concerted action to ensure that every child survives and thrives and no mother dies from preventable causes as a consequence of pregnancy and childbirth.

The rates of child and maternal death remain high in several countries. Thousands of mothers, in different parts of the world, continue to die during childbirth and millions of children die before their fifth birthday from preventable causes. It bothers the world community that even today, a woman's risk of dying from childbirth in sub-Saharan Africa is more than 47 times greater than in the United States.

## CHILD SURVIVAL: CALL TO ACTION

That is why, in **June 2012**, the Governments of Ethiopia, India and the United States, in collaboration with UNICEF, hosted the "Child Survival: Call to Action." Designed to focus the disparate priorities of the global health community, the Call to Action set a single, comprehensive and achievable goal: **ending preventable child deaths by 2035**. More than 175 countries and over 400 civil society and faith organizations signed a pledge in support. This global commitment became known as **A Promise Renewed**.

### THE CALL TO ACTION'S FIVE STRATEGIC SHIFTS:

- Increase efforts in the countries that account for the largest share of under-five deaths
- Reach the most underserved populations
- Target priority causes of mortality with innovation efforts and interventions poised to go to scale
- Invest beyond health programs to include empowering women and supporting an enabling environment
- Create transparency and mutual accountability at all levels, with strengthened commitment to common metrics for tracking progress

Reenergizing the child survival movement, *A Promise Renewed* set a global goal of fewer than 20 deaths per thousand live births in all countries by the year 2035. It kicked off an effort to find agreement on a similar goal of fewer than 50 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2035.

Most importantly, APR outlined a new, modern approach to child survival through five strategic shifts (see box) and encouraged countries to take the lead themselves.

At the Call to Action, partner countries stepped forward to lead with energy and focus. Representatives from five countries that contribute to more than 50 percent of child deaths worldwide (India, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan and Ethiopia) made public commitments to change their practices to accelerate progress on reducing under-five deaths. By 2014, 16 of the 24 priority countries had launched national efforts to improve child and maternal survival and accelerate declines in preventable child and maternal deaths.

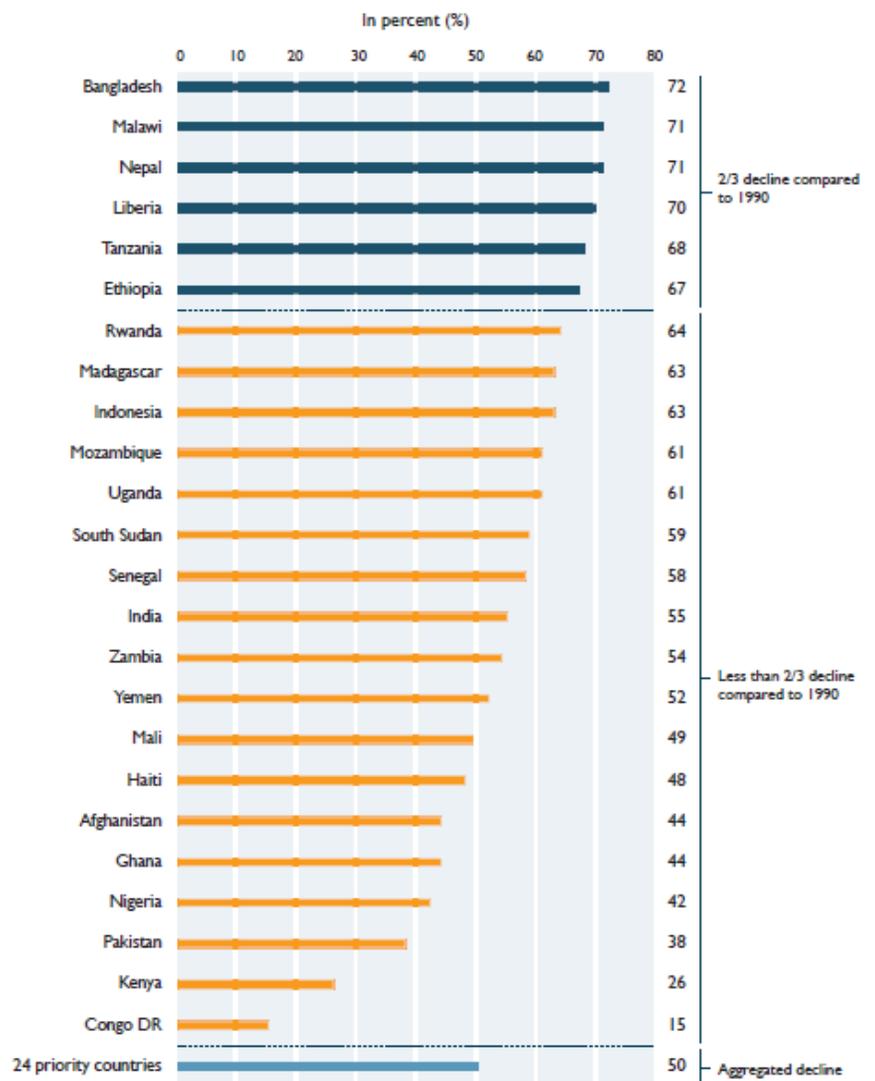
### ACTING ON THE CALL 2014: ending preventable maternal and child deaths

In June 2014, a Summit to mark achievements, comprehend challenges and identify high impact interventions in all of the committed countries was organized in Washington DC. It was here that USAID and the Governments of India and Ethiopia, in collaboration with UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners, came together to unveil new efforts to save an unprecedented number of women and children by 2020 in 24 priority countries.

USAID released **country action plans for the 24 priority countries**, delineating the way it would realign programs and called on other donors and actors to join in aligning their investments with country-owned plans that focused on delivering results for the most vulnerable families in the most vulnerable communities.

In these countries, USAID committed to increasing efforts in newborn health, immunization, and prevention and treatment of childhood illness, as well as expanding access to life-saving commodities for family planning (e.g. long lasting contraceptives), maternal health (e.g. oxytocin, magnesium sulfate), newborn health (e.g. chlorhexidine, antenatal corticosteroid,

PERCENTAGE DECLINE IN UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE (1990 TO 2012)



Source: UNICEF analysis based on UN IGME 2013

injectable antibiotics, and resuscitation equipment), and child health (e.g. amoxicillin, ORS/zinc).

# **CALL TO ACTION SUMMIT 2015**

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## **ending preventable child and maternal deaths**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India will co-host the '**CALL TO ACTION SUMMIT 2015- ending preventable child and maternal deaths**' with the Ministry of Health, Government of Ethiopia, in partnership with partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation the Tata Trusts, UNICEF, USAID, UK Aid and WHO in **New Delhi** on **August 27-28, 2015**.

The two-day leadership Summit is a confluence of health ministers from 24 priority countries, state health ministers from India, international academic experts, practitioners and global leaders from diverse sectors - corporate, civil society and media.

The Summit is being held as lead up to the United Nations Summit for the adoption of post-2015 development agenda. For this world leaders will gather in New York for a high level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly in September 2015. As the UN prepares to redefine goals to carry forward the legacy of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), India is co-hosting this landmark event so that countries can take stock of progress, share best practices and forge alliances for ending preventable child and maternal deaths in preparation for moving towards the post-2015 development agenda.

As a priority country, India's huge strides in child survival offer proof that the Call to Action has helped build momentum around the shared goal of ending preventable child deaths.

### **SYSTEMS, PARTNERSHIPS, INNOVATIONS, CONVERGENCE, EVIDENCE**

The Delhi Summit is a platform for the 24 nations to deliberate upon the importance of **Systems, Partnerships, Innovations, Convergence, and Evidence** in ending all preventable maternal and child deaths. Under these themes, key topics such as health financing, corporate partnerships, game-changing innovations, accountability, and cross cutting areas such as water, sanitation, and nutrition that play a pivotal role in the success of program delivery and impact will be discussed comprehensively.

The Summit aims to engage delegates through – (1) **inspirational sessions** involving global public and child health experts, industry leaders and civil society representatives; (2) **interactive marketplace** where countries will showcase innovative approaches and best practices that have helped address bottlenecks in health service delivery and demand generation; (3) forum for networking and **forging alliances** that will accelerate efforts towards realizing the global vision of ending preventable maternal and child deaths.

A major highlight of the Summit is the **Ministerial Conclave** where Ministers of health from 24 participating nations will reflect on initiatives that their countries are taking for child survival. Ministers will share lessons learned in the process and decide new ways to move forward to protect and promote every child's right to life. The ministerial conclave will evolve a set of tangible outcomes that will create avenues for strong partnerships among countries in maternal and child health.

It is time for committed countries to once again, through this Summit, rise to the occasion and build on the mission that has been created for ending preventable deaths of mothers and children by 2035. The forum is intended to galvanize efforts of all countries and stakeholders and to provide the much needed impetus for positioning child survival goals in the post 2015 development agenda.

