2012 KEY MESSAGES FOR PARTNERS

EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD HAS ALREADY SEEN REMARKABLE PROGRESS

Our work is paying off. In the two years since the launch of Every Woman Every Child, there has been remarkable progress in the health of women and children around the world:

- Deaths of young children have continued to decline dropping from 7.1 million deaths in 2010 to 6.9 million in 2011.
- Women dying of pregnancy-related causes have fallen from nearly 421,000 in 2000 to 350,000 in 2005 to 287,000 in 2010, with major gains made in some of the world’s largest countries.
- And progress is accelerating: Between 2000 and 2011, the annual rate of reduction in the global under-five mortality rate jumped to 3.2 per cent, up from 1.8 per cent in 1990-2000. Sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the greatest challenge in child survival, has doubled its rate of reduction, from 1.5 per cent per year in 1990-2010 to 3.1 per cent in 2000-2011.
- Every Woman Every Child has helped catalyze new attention and investment to some of the most neglected causes of women’s and children’s mortality, including contraceptive access and preterm birth.
- Today, far fewer children are being infected with HIV, thanks to the spread of important new therapies.
- The percentage of children sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to have grown from 2 per cent in 2000 to 50 per cent in 2011.
- And the percentage of children that are breastfed exclusively until six months has risen over the past decade in many countries, particularly in Africa and Asia, providing a sound nutritional start to life and ensuring critical protection against water-borne diseases and diarrhea – a major cause of death of young children.
COMMITMENTS IN SUPPORT OF EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED

Every Woman Every Child is mobilizing hundreds of partners for maximum effect. By September 25th, more than 250 organizations, including 70 governments, will have made commitments to advance the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health. [The full list of organizations which have made commitments to Every Woman Every Child can be found at everywomaneverychild.org/commitments.] In financial terms, US $20 billion represents new and additional money that was not previously committed to this cause. At least US$ 10 billion has been disbursed in the field as of 2012. These funds were committed through 2015 and will be utilized to enhance health financing, and ensure access and quality health care for the world’s most vulnerable women and children. The cumulative financial commitments of nearly $58 billion in pledges do not take into account the value of the many policy, advocacy and service delivery commitments that have also been made to advance the Global Strategy, many of which are difficult to quantify.

IN 2012, A NUMBER OF UNIQUE PLEDGING MOMENTS SERVED AS CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

In 2012, the Child Survival Call to Action, London Family Planning Summit, and Born Too Soon report launch provided the opportunity to catalyze and coordinate global action around women’s and children’s health, in support of Every Woman Every Child. Thanks to these efforts, A Promise Renewed was launched as a sustained, global effort to save children’s lives; voluntary family planning services will reach an additional 120 million women and girls in the world’s poorest countries by 2020; and 30 new and expanded commitments towards the prevention and care of preterm birth were announced.

This year also saw the launch of the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children, which aims to increase access to life-saving medicines and health supplies for the world’s most vulnerable people, in support of Every Woman Every Child.

Work to ensure accountability and results in women’s and children’s health has also continued to progress. In September, the independent Expert Review Group (iERG) will present UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon its first annual review of the results and resources related to the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health and on progress implementing the first nine recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability Commission.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AMPLIFY AND ACCELERATE PROGRESS

Every Woman Every Child facilitates productive and strategic partnerships, to the benefit of global health. The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the MDG Health Alliance; the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; the H4+ (UN health agencies); the Innovation Working Group, Saving Lives at Birth; A Grand Challenge for Development; and Countdown to 2015 are some of the many crucial partnerships uniting in support of Every Woman Every Child to achieve exponentially positive results.
EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD BRINGS TOGETHER THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

The private sector is playing a central role in Every Woman Every Child, as visionary CEOs work with governments to bring both financial and human resources to the table even in difficult economic times. A central focus in 2011 and 2012 has been on tapping the enormous potential of the private sector. During 2012, the Every Woman Every Child movement has fostered innovative public-private partnerships leveraging both business and public sector capabilities, several of which were catalyzed nationally following visits by the Secretary-General. Also established this year was the MDG Health Alliance, an organization comprised of eminent leaders from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors working in conjunction with the Health and Education Cluster of the Secretary-General’s MDG Advocates. The MDG Health Alliance works in partnership with UN agencies, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions and others to support country efforts to accelerate progress toward achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals.

EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD BRINGS TOGETHER DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Along with donor countries, more than 50 developing countries have made commitments in support of Every Woman Every Child. For the first time, women’s and children’s health are at the top of political agendas. Low and middle income governments are investing in the health of their own people, while donor governments have stepped up their funding contributions. Further work needs to occur to ensure that commitments are geared toward countries that have the highest needs.

EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD HAS PRODUCED INNOVATIVE RESULTS

Every Woman Every Child has helped to catalyze game-changing innovations in areas such as the use of mobile technology for health care that will make future implementation of interventions to improve women’s and children’s health more effective and sustainable.

OUR EFFORTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH/MANY DEATHS ARE PREVENTABLE WITH OUR CRITICAL ACTION

We have the power to save lives. Consider: Skilled attendance at births is the single most critical intervention for ensuring safe motherhood, yet, 40% of women in developing countries give birth without skilled delivery care. The most effective prevention for diarrhea is hand washing with soap. And a person living with HIV can reduce the risk of transmitting the virus by up to 96% if they are receiving antiretroviral therapy. Through our actions, we can ensure safe motherhood, vastly reduce child deaths, and stop the spread of HIV.
...BUT WE MUST DO MORE

Although progress is laudable, we know that advances need to be sustained; and more work remains to be done as we approach 2015. We need to accelerate the rate of decline in child mortality to 14.2% per year between 2011 and 2015 and maternal mortality to 24.3% between 2010 and 2015 to achieve our global target. An estimated 19,000 children still died every day in 2011, and about 43 per cent in the first month of life, most from preventable causes. And the gains in health we’ve seen, although significant, are still insufficient to achieve the health MDGs by 2015. Proven solutions need to be expanded to accelerate progress on child survival faster and farther. Rhetoric must be turned into reality if we are to prevent the deaths of 16 million women and children by 2015. We must accelerate the pace of implementation – the current rate of progress is still insufficient to reach our goal for 2015, so we are calling on new and old partners to do more.

Learn more at www.everywomaneverychild.org