

Momentum for Every Woman Every Child

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As underscored last week at the United Nations General Assembly, *Every Woman Every Child* has shown what multi-stakeholder partnerships can accomplish. Women's and children's health is critically important to development, and directly impacts our success in achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Additionally, completing the unfinished agenda of the MDGs will help lay a solid foundation for the next development framework to be put in place in 2016. When more than 300 organizations, including 70 governments, not only have made commitments to advance the *Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health*, but are implementing and showing results, we know this has a positive impact on the entire global development agenda.

The positive momentum was reflected in some of the new data released for UNGA week. In particular, [the PMNCH 2013 report](#) analyzed the commitment and found that:

Financial commitments total as much as US\$45 billion. Of this, up to \$22 billion represents money that was not previously committed to this cause.¹ Of this \$22 billion, up to \$17 billion is targeted to the 49 countries that are the focus of the Global Strategy

An estimated \$25 billion has been disbursed to date by all stakeholders who made commitments to the Global Strategy - actually double the disbursement total of \$11.6 billion total reported in 2012. This is proof of concrete action being taken as a result of the Global Strategy.

¹These 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. This does 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. Although some stakeholders were not yet able to report on disbursement, there is evidence that at least US\$ 10 billion has been disbursed as of 2012.

In addition, the Global Strategy has attracted a wide range of health services and systems commitments that have not, or cannot be, monetized, but nonetheless make up an important part of the response. These include commitments to add nearly 1.8 million more health workers by 2015 -- an important contribution toward the global gap of up to 3.5 million -- and to increase access to family planning services for 17 million new users.

The [New Child Mortality Estimates and the 2nd Annual A Promise Renewed Report](#) showed us that globally, the annual number of under-five deaths fell from an estimated 12.6 million in 1990 to approximately 6.6 million in 2012.

We know however, that the work is far from over. This week served as a rallying cry to intensify actions in the remaining 825 or so days of the MDGs. At current rates of progress, only 17 of 75 countries, where over 95% of maternal and child deaths take place, will reach MDG-4. Only 9 countries will reach MDG-5. We learned that unacceptably high levels of stunting, a form of growth failure resulting from chronic under nutrition and lack of access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, in virtually all 75 Countdown countries. Without faster progress on reducing preventable diseases, the world will not meet MDG 4 until 2028--- 13 years after the deadline— and 35 million children will die between 2015 and 2028 who would have otherwise lived had the goal been met on time. Further, the pace of reduction will need to quadruple to meet MDG 4 and an additional 3.5 million children's lives will need to be saved between now and the end of 2015. Additionally, maternal deaths are similarly off track, and we must quadruple the current rate of reduction to bring maternal deaths down from 260,000 per annum to 140,000.

Additionally, high levels of fertility and unmet need for family planning highlight the need to broaden access to contraception. The [Independent Expert Review Group report](#) highlighted the progress and gaps around implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and the Commission on Information and Accountability and suggested action on two neglected dimensions of women's and children's health: strengthening accountability in countries and adolescent health. The recommendation to launch of a new movement for better

data, including implementing systems for civil registration and vital statistics, was heard loud and clear by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, who pledged to work together to ensure that in the words of WHO Director Margaret Chan, that “what gets measured gets done,” and to give “identity to the babies that are buried before they can live.”

Partners used UNGA week to launch new reports, detail progress on commitments and highlight game-changing innovations. A list is included at the end of this post.

Progress on commitments, as well as new partnerships, were on full display last week. We are grateful to our many partners who reported on advances and doubled down on the remaining work that needs to be done. Here are some highlights from last week – including important new data on *Every Woman Every Child* commitments. You can also checkout the [#MDG456live “Hub”](#), an essential resource for staying current on the health MDGs. We look forward to our continued partnership as we work to implement the pledges made during UNGA 2013 and accelerate efforts around *Every Woman Every Child* in the coming days and months.

- At the [second annual accountability breakfast](#) organized by Countdown to 2015, the IERG and the PMNCH, stakeholders gathered to learn about success factors for women’s and children’s health and vow greater efforts on accountability for women’s and children’s health.
- A high-level event, [MDG Success: Accelerating Action and Partnering for Impact](#), hosted by the Secretary-General on 23 September, showcased the power of new types of partnerships to change the development landscape and mobilize finance, expertise and knowledge to further the MDGs. Additional commitments from the Governments of Norway and the United States , the World Bank, UNICEF, the Ikea Foundation, with the MDG Health Alliance brought the total new investment in boosting MDG achievement to \$2.5 billion.

- The [*Every Woman Every Child reception*](#) was an opportunity for partners to network, engage and plot new collaborations.
- More than 100 executives and leaders from the private sector and multilateral and civil society organizations gathered at luncheon on [*Successes and Challenges: Accelerating Action to Achieve the MDGs*](#) event to celebrate and mobilize private sector engagement for *Every Woman Every Child*. New commitments included the Zinc Initiative to work with mining companies to promote the availability of zinc, an essential intervention along with ORS to treat diarrhoea; Tom's Shoes pledged to donate one pair of shoes for every shoe that is bought to help children go to school and women collect water over long distances; Lions Club International dedicated 30 million in financial resources and will use its 1.5 million volunteers to help deliver essential interventions.
- At [*Women's and Children's Health: The Unfinished Agenda of the MDGs*](#) an event hosted by the Government of Canada, Tanzania and Norway, with the support of the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, key themes included the need to sustain momentum and focus on women's and children's health; ensure interventions integral to this group are implemented and reiterate the importance of championing key measures needed to strengthen accountability.
- [*Breakthrough Innovations That Can Save Women and Children Now*](#)—was released by PATH, the government of Norway, the United Nations Foundation, and the MDG Health Alliance. The UN Secretary-General provides a special message in the report: “This publication outlines ten innovations that will have an immediate impact on the leading killers of women and children. From new medicines that prevent deadly infections in newborns, to new uses of supply chains to deliver medicines to the most remote areas, these are game-changing practices and advances.”

- [“Unfinished Business: Partnering to Reach Every Woman and Every Child”](#) was held by GBCHHealth and World Vision with support from the MDG Health Alliance. It focused on the significant progress made by the global health community toward reducing child and maternal deaths and increasing momentum in the last two years of the MDGs.
- More than 100 participants, including representatives of donor agencies and foundations, the UN, health care professional associations, private business and civil society, attended the provocatively titled session, [“Where should the money go for newborn survival – prevention or care?”](#). The session was organized by Johnson & Johnson, March of Dimes, Save the Children, and the MDG Health Alliance.
- At a panel and reception in support of *Every Woman Every Child* high-level decision makers gathered to reenergize efforts to achieve MDG 4 and 5. The [Lives on the Line](#) event hosted by Women Deliver, Save the Children, World Vision International, PATH and Family Care International provided an opportunity to spotlight countries on and off track to achieving MDGs 4 and 5, explore the reasons for this and identify actions needed to accelerate progress. With over 800 days remaining until the 2015 deadline this event was billed to create momentum in the last stretch, by focusing on actions needed to save an additional 3.2 million children and identify national and international milestones to drive forward commitments.

Reports:

- [PMNCH Success Factors Study](#)
- [Countdown to 2015 report](#)
- [2013 PMNCH Report](#)
- [2nd iERG report. Every Woman Every Child: Strengthening Equity and Dignity through](#)
- [Norway/ PATH Health Innovations Feature](#)
- [Innovation Working Group \(IWG\) and mHealth Alliance 2013 winners](#)
- [H4+ Progress Report](#)
- [New joint Report on equity in pathways towards Universal Health Coverage \(Rockefeller Foundation, Save the Children, UNICEF and WHO\)](#)
- [Save the Children’s Getting to Zero Report](#)

- World Vision's [The Killer Gap: A Global Index Of Health Inequality For Children](#)
- [How Effective Are Community Health Workers?](#) Johns Hopkins
- [WaterAid, Everyone Everywhere](#)
- [HLP report on 2015](#)
- [Commitments for Every Woman, Every Child: A Human Resources for Health perspective, Integrare, April 2013.](#)
- Global Health Workforce Alliance state of the health workforce report (Coming November 2013)