

# Stillbirths in 2015: progress and unfinished business

Luc de Bernis, UNFPA GMNHC 2015, Mexico

## Stillbirths: vision for 2020

- International community
  - Integrate stillbirths in MNH strategies and reports
  - Universal classification system
- Country Level
  - Stillbirth reduction plan, including data for action
  - Reduce stigma
- Communities and families
  - Empowerment for women and families
  - Provide bereavement support/ Reduce stigma
- Research Principles
  - Increase support/ capacity
  - Include stillbirth as outcome in all relevant research

## Stillbirths: vision for 2020

- Are the Stillbirths better considered and visible?
- Are the Stillbirths better counted?
- Are the stillbirths better investigated?
- Are the stillbirths better respected?

## Stillbirths: Progress and unfinished business

#### THE LANCET

Stillbirth

An Executive Summary for The Lancet's Series



\*Millions of families experience stillbirth, yet these deaths remain uncounted, unsupported, and the solutions understudied. Better counting of stillbirths alongside maternal and neonatal deaths and strategic programmatic action will make stillbirths count."

### Stillbirths in 2015: Progress and unfinished business

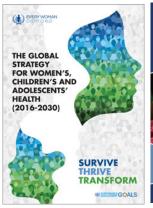
Visibility - Global Frameworks and Policy

Counting - Improving data to inform progress

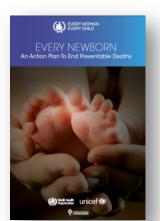
Care – Focus on quality, respectful integrated care for all

Investing – In women and the next generation

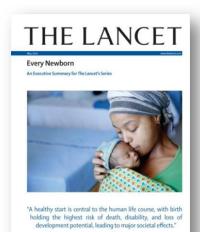






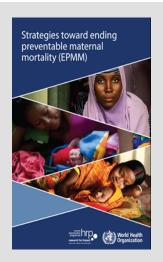








#### MDG 2015 Results for Women & Children



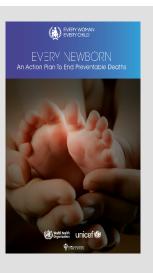
No woman should die whilst giving life

~ 290,000 die



No baby stillborn

2.6 million die



No newborn is born to die

2.7 million die



No child dying

3.2 million die

~ 9 million women and babies die per year, two-thirds related to birth

It is every woman's right to quality health care and the highest attainable level of health across the life course for herself and her child

## What the RMNCH community talked about in 2014

**LANCET** 

EWEC, iERG, COIA, UNCOLSC, WHO (RHR), WHO (MCA), FP2020, ENAP, PMNCH, UNICEF, UNFPA, Women Deliver, World Bank, Countdown2015, Global Campaign for Health MDGs



## Changing Global Landscape



#### Global data:

NOT routinely reported to the World Health Organization NOT included in the Global Burden of Disease metrics NOT measured appropriately in most national surveys

#### Global goals and targets:

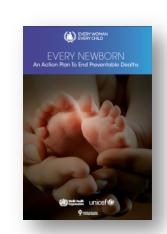
Stillbirths NOT counted in the MDGs although intimately linked to:

- Maternal health in MDG 5
- Neonatal deaths, accounting for 43% of child deaths in MDG4
- Poverty (MDG 1) and girls education (MDG2)

Stillbirths NOT included as a target under SDG health goal

#### BUT recent evidence of some change:

- Target for stillbirth reduction included as part of the Every Newborn Action Plan following country consultation
- Included in new WHO list of 100 core indicators





### Five things to do differently

## Intentional leadership development

Especially in countries with highest burden



## Increase the voice of women

Women's rights, and their voices for accountability, attention to respectful care

## Implementation and investment

Address health system bottlenecks, *integrate* and *invest* in Quality of Care

#### **Indicators & metrics**

2030 Targets

Measurement of progress and impact



Investigation of critical knowledge gaps

# Criteria for integration of stillbirths into women's and children's health

Three ways to effectively and appropriately incorporate stillbirths in post-2015 initiatives for women's and children's health in order to meet the full potential of efforts.

#### These criteria include:

- 1) acknowledge the burden of stillbirths;
- 2) address actions needed to prevent stillbirths with antenatal and intrapartum care; and
- 3) monitor stillbirths with a target and/or outcome indicator



## Integrating stillbirths into the changing landscape for quality, respectful care

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#### International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijgo





FIGO GUIDELINES

Mother−baby friendly birthing facilities<sup>††</sup>



Safe Motherhood is more than the prevention of death

International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics <sup>1,2</sup>, International Confederation of Midwives, White Ribbon Alliance, International Pediatric Association, World Health Organization





REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Volume 11 Supplement 2

**Quality of Care in Maternal and Child Health** 

Reviews

Edited by Tarek Meguid

and disability...It is respect for every woman's humanity, feelings, choices, and preferences.

RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE:
THE UNIVERSAL RIGHTS OF CHILDBEARING WOMEN

## Addressing quality of care

Stillbirth prevention requires emphasis on quality maternity care that is respectful of a woman's rights and tailored to her needs.

- Better communication and informationprovision
- Access to clinical practice guidelines
- Delivery of evidence-based interventions
- Quality bereavement care
- Develop maternal satisfaction reports and indicators of women's maternity care experiences



## **Conclusions**

Further reduction in stillbirth rate in HICs, L and MICs is possible through:

- Improvements in health status of women
- Improvements in quality of maternal care
- Reducing social inequalities
- Perinatal mortality audits
- Elimination of stigma and fatalism

## YOUR IDEAS NEEDED!!

How to include stillbirths in our action plan for quality care at birth for women & newborns?

**When:** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 07h00 - 08h20

Breakfast will be offered during the session

Where: Don Diego II Second Floor, Hilton Mexico City Reforma















