



MOMENTUM FOR Maternal Newborn Health

IN OCTOBER 2015 the global maternal newborn health community gathered to share emerging evidence, ask hard questions, and learn from those doing vital work within countries.

A thousand delegates from more than 75 countries reflected on the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and shared critical lessons about successes and persistent challenges in maternal newborn health.

Researchers, implementers, advocates, and representatives from the development and donor communities outlined a roadmap for maternal newborn health in the post-2015 era that included **ten critical actions**.

1 Political leadership must act on strong scientific evidence and empower the public to make demands to improve maternal newborn survival. Governments and societies are morally obliged to embrace and implement an active and evidence-based maternal newborn health agenda and continuously monitor its progress.

2 Global and national health communities must integrate strategies, services, and funding streams to avoid unnecessary and harmful silos. Maternal newborn health offers a proven platform to strengthen the entire health system.

3 Reaching the most vulnerable, including adolescents, is an urgent priority; weak national healthcare systems fail too many individuals.

4 Maternal newborn survival efforts should improve maternal morbidities, stillbirths, and child development outcomes; they are essential proxies for inequity and poor quality care.

5 Increasing investments to improve quality of maternal newborn health services is a fundamental response to health and rights imperatives.

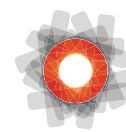
6 Care with dignity does not cost more. At any resource level, a provider has the opportunity and the obligation to **treat women with compassion and respect.**

7 Universal access to integrated sexual and reproductive health care, including contraception, is essential to ensure maternal newborn health.

8 Now is the time to address gaps in measurement, information, and accountability in order to assess progress in the next 15 years.

9 Sharing success in maternal newborn health is an opportunity to strengthen health programs, not a risk to maintaining support. This is the time to acknowledge important gains made as strategies are created to implement the SDGs.

10 Supporting all providers, especially midwives, to address maternal newborn health is imperative to realize the ambitious post-2015 agenda.



Maternal Health Task Force



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