

The World Health Report 2005

**Make every mother
and child count**



World Health Organization

WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

World Health Organization.

The World health report : 2005 : make every mother and child count.

1. World health - trends 2. Maternal welfare 3. Child welfare. 4. Maternal health services - organization and administration.
5. Child health services - organization and administration 6. World Health Organization I. Title II. Title: Make every mother and child count.

ISBN 92 4 156290 0 (NLM Classification: WA 540.1)
ISSN 1020-3311

© World Health Organization 2005

All rights reserved. Publications of the World Health Organization can be obtained from WHO Press, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (tel: +41 22 791 2476; fax: +41 22 791 4857; e-mail: bookorders@who.int). Requests for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications – whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution – should be addressed to WHO Press, at the above address (fax: +41 22 791 4806; e-mail: permissions@who.int).

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by WHO to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either express or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

Information concerning this publication can be obtained from:

World Health Report
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
E-mail: whr@who.int

Copies of this publication can be ordered from: bookorders@who.int

This report was produced under the overall direction of Joy Phumaphi (Assistant Director-General, Family and Child Health), Tim Evans (Assistant Director-General, Evidence and Information for Policy) and Wim Van Lerberghe (Editor-in-Chief). The principal authors were Wim Van Lerberghe, Annick Manuel, Zoë Matthews and Cathy Wolfheim. Thomson Prentice was the Managing Editor.

Valuable inputs (contributions, background papers, analytical work, reviewing, suggestions and criticism) were received from Elisabeth Aahman, Carla Abou-Zahr, Fifi Amoako Johnson, Fred Arnold, Alberta Bacci, Rajiv Bahl, Rebecca Bailey, Robert Beaglehole, Rafael Bengoa, Janie Benson, Yves Bergevin, Stan Bernstein, Julian Bilous, Ties Boerma, Jo Borghi, Paul Bossyns, Assia Brandrup-Lukanov, Eric Buch, Flavia Bustreo, Meena Cabral de Mello, Virginia Camacho, Guy Carrin, Andrew Cassels, Kathryn Church, Alessandro Colombo, Jane Cottingham, Bernadette Daelmans, Mario Dal Poz, Catherine d'Arcangues, Hugh Darrach, Luc de Bernis, Isabelle de Zoysa, Maria Del Carmen, Carmen Dolea, Gilles Dussault, Steve Ebener, Dominique Egger, Gerry Eijkemans, Bjorn Ekman, Zine Elmorjani, Tim Ensor, Marthe Sylvie Essengue, David Evans, Vincent Fauveau, Paulo Ferrinho, Helga Fogstad, Marta Gacic Dobo, Ulf Gerdham, Adrienne Germain, Peter Ghys, Elizabeth Goodburn, Veloshnee Govender, Metin Gulmezoglu, Jean-Pierre Habicht, Sarah Hall, Laurence Haller, Steve Harvey, Peggy Henderson, Patricia Hernández, Peter Hill, Dale Huntington, Julia Hussein, Guy Hutton, Mie Inoue, Monir Islam, Christopher James, Craig Janes, Ben Johns, Rita Kabra, Betty Kirkwood, Lianne Kuppens, Joy Lawn, Jerker Liljestrand, Ornella Lincetto, Craig Lissner, Alessandro Loretto, Jane Lucas, Doris Ma Fat, Carolyn MacLennan, Ramez Mahaini, Sudhansh Malhostra, Adriane Martin Hilber, José Martínez, Elizabeth Mason, Matthews Mathai, Dileep Mavalankar, Gillian Mayers, Juliet McEachren, Abdelhai Mechbal, Mario Meraldi, Tom Merrick, Thierry Mertens, Susan Murray, Adepeju Olukoya, Guillermo Paraje, Justin Parkhurst, Amit Patel, Vikram Patel, Steve Pearson, Gretel Peltó, Jean Perrot, Annie Portela, Dheepa Rajan, K.V. Ramani, Esther Ratsma, Linda Richter, David Sanders, Parvathy Sankar, Robert Scherpbier, Peelam Sekhri, Gita Sen, Iqbal Shah, Della Sherratt, Kenji Shibuya, Kristjana Sigurbjörnsdóttir, Angelica Sousa, Niko Speybroeck, Karin Stenberg, Will Stones, Tessa Tan-Torres Edejer, Petra Ten Hoope-Bender, Ann Tinker, Wim Van Damme, Jos Vandelaer, Paul Van Look, Marcel Vekemans, Cesar Victora, Eugenio Villar Montesinos, Yasmin Von Schirnding, Eva Wallstam, Steve Wiersma, Karl Wilhelmson, Lara Wolfson, Juliana Yartey and Jelka Zupan

Contributors to statistical tables were: Elisabeth Aahman, Dorjsuren Bayarsaikhan, Ana Betran, Zulfiqar Bhutta, Maureen Birmingham, Robert Black, Ties Boerma, Cynthia Boschi-Pinto, Jennifer Bryce, Agnes Couffignal, Simon Cousens, Trevor Croft, David D. Vans, Charu C. Garg, Kim Gustavsen, Nasim Haque, Patricia Hernández, Ken Hill, Chandika Indikadahena, Mie Inoue, Gareth Jones, Betty Kirkwood, Joseph Kutzin, Joy Lawn, Eduardo Levcovitz, Edilberto Loaiza, Doris Ma Fat, José Martínez, Elizabeth Mason, Colin Mathers, Saul Morris, Kim Mulholland, Takondwa Mwase, Bernard Nahlen, Pamela Nakamba-Kabaso, Agnès Prudhomme, Rachel Racelis, Olivier Ronveaux, Alex Rowe, Hossein Salehi, Ian Scott, U Than Sein, Kenji Shibuya, Rick Steketee, Rubén Suarez, Tessa Tan-Torres Edejer, Nathalie van de Maele, Tessa Wardlaw, Neff Walker, Hongyi Xu, Jelka Zupan, and many staff in WHO country offices, governmental departments and agencies, and international institutions.

Valuable comments and guidance were provided by Denis Aitken and Michel Janclöes. Additional help and advice were kindly provided by Regional Directors and members of their staff.

The report was edited by Leo Vita-Finzi, assisted by Barbara Campanini. Editorial, administrative and production support was provided by Shelagh Probst and Gary Walker, who also coordinated the photographs. The web site version and other electronic media were provided by Gael Kernen. Proofreading was by Marie Fitzsimmons. The index was prepared by Kathleen Lyle.

Front cover photographs (clockwise from top left): L. Gubb/WHO; Pepito Frias/WHO; Armando Waak/WHO/PAHO; Carlos Gaggero/WHO/PAHO; Liba Taylor/WHO; Pierre Viot/WHO. Back cover photographs (left to right): Pierre Viot/WHO; J. Gorstein/WHO; G. Diez/WHO; Pierre Viot/WHO. This report contains several photographs from "River of Life 2004" – a WHO photo competition on the theme of sexual and reproductive health.

Design: Reda Sadki
Layout: Steve Ewart and Reda Sadki
Figures: Christophe Grangier
Photo retouching: Reda Sadki and Denis Meissner
Printing coordination: Keith Wynn
Printed in France

contents

Message from the Director-General	xi
Overview	xiii
Patchy progress and widening gaps – what went wrong?	xiv
Making the right technical and strategic choices	xiv
Moving towards universal coverage: access for all, with financial protection	xvi
Chapter summaries	xix
Chapter 1	
Mothers and children matter – so does their health	1
The early years of maternal and child health	2
Where we are now: a moral and political imperative	3
Mothers, children and the Millennium Development Goals	7
Uneven gains in child health	8
The newborn deaths that went unnoticed	9
Few signs of improvement in maternal health	10
A patchwork of progress, stagnation and reversal	12
The numbers remain high	13
Chapter 2	
Obstacles to progress: context or policy?	21
Context matters	22
Poverty undermines progress	22
The direct and indirect effects of HIV/AIDS	23
Conflicts and emergencies set systems back	24
The many faces of exclusion from care	25
Sources of exclusion	26
Patterns of exclusion	29
Different exclusion patterns, different challenges	30
Are districts the right strategy for moving towards universal coverage?	32
A strategy without resources	32
Have districts failed the test?	33

Chapter 3	
Great expectations: making pregnancy safer	41
Realizing the potential of antenatal care	42
Meeting expectations in pregnancy	42
Pregnancy – a time with its own dangers	44
Seizing the opportunities	46
Critical directions for the future	47
Not every pregnancy is welcome	48
Planning pregnancies before they even happen	48
Unsafe abortion: a major public health problem	50
Dealing with the complications of abortion	51
Valuing pregnancy: a matter of legal protection	52
Chapter 4	
Attending to 136 million births, every year	61
Risking death to give life	61
Skilled professional care: at birth and afterwards	65
Successes and reversals: a matter of building health systems	65
Skilled care: rethinking the division of labour	68
Care that is close to women – and safe	69
A back-up in case of complications	72
Rolling out services simultaneously	73
Postpartum care is just as important	73
Chapter 5	
Newborns: no longer going unnoticed	79
The greatest risks to life are in its beginning	79
Progress and some reversals	82
No longer falling between the cracks	85
Care during pregnancy	86
Professional care at birth	86
Caring for the baby at home	88
Ensuring continuity of care	89
Planning for universal access	90
Benchmarks for supply-side needs	90
Room for optimism, reasons for caution	91
Closing the human resource and infrastructure gap	93
Scenarios for scaling up	93
Costing the scale up	98
Chapter 6	
Redesigning child care: survival, growth and development	103
Improving the chances of survival	103
The ambitions of the primary health care movement	103
The successes of vertical programmes	103
Time for a change of strategy	105
Combining a wider range of interventions	105
Dealing with children, not just with diseases	107
Organizing integrated child care	108

Households and health workers	109
Referring sick children	111
Bringing care closer to children	112
Rolling out child health interventions	112
The cost of scaling up coverage	115
From cost projections to scaling up	117

Chapter 7

Reconciling maternal, newborn and child health with health system development

Repositioning MNCH	125
Different constituencies, different languages	128
Sustaining political momentum	130
Rehabilitating the workforce	132
Not just a question of numbers	132
Recovering from the legacy of past neglect	134
Destabilization with the best of intentions	136
Tackling the salary problem	136
Financial protection to ensure universal access	137
Replacing user fees by prepayment, pooling and a refinancing of the sector	138
Making the most of transitory financial protection mechanisms	139
Generalizing financial protection	140
Channelling funds effectively	140

Statistical annex

Explanatory notes	149
Annex Table 1	149
Basic indicators for all WHO Member States	174
Annex Table 2a	
Under-five mortality rates: estimates for 2003, annual average percent change 1990–2003, and availability of data 1980–2003	182
Annex Table 2b	
Under-five mortality rates (per 1000) directly obtained from surveys and vital registration, by age and latest available period or year	186
Annex Table 3	
Annual number of deaths by cause for children under five years of age in WHO regions, estimates for 2000–2003	190
Annex Table 4	
Annual number of deaths by cause for neonates in WHO regions, estimates for 2000–2003	190
Annex Table 5	
Selected national health accounts indicators: measured levels of expenditure on health, 1998–2002	192
Annex Table 6	
Selected national health accounts indicators: measured levels of per capita expenditure on health, 1998–2002	200
Annex Table 7	
Selected immunization indicators in all WHO Member States	204
Annex Table 8	
Selected indicators related to reproductive, maternal and newborn health	212

Index	221
Figures	
Figure 1.1	
Slowing progress in child mortality: how Africa is faring worst	8
Figure 1.2	
Neonatal and maternal mortality are related to the absence of a skilled birth attendant	10
Figure 1.3	
Changes in under-5 mortality rates, 1990–2003: countries showing progress, stagnation or reversal	14
Figure 1.4	
Patterns of reduction of under-5 mortality rates, 1990–2003	14
Figure 1.5	
Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 live births in 2000	15
Figure 1.6	
Neonatal mortality rate per 1000 live births in 2000	15
Figure 2.1	
A temporary reversal in maternal mortality: Mongolia in the early 1990s	23
Figure 2.2	
Levelling off after remarkable progress: DTP3 vaccine coverage since 1980	26
Figure 2.3	
Different patterns of exclusion: massive deprivation at low levels of coverage and marginalization of the poorest at high levels	29
Figure 2.4	
From massive deprivation to marginal exclusion: moving up the coverage ladder	30
Figure 2.5	
Survival gap between rich and poor: widening in some countries, narrowing in others	31
Figure 3.1	
Coverage of antenatal care is rising	42
Figure 3.2	
The outcomes of a year's pregnancies	49
Figure 3.3	
Grounds on which abortion is permitted around the world	52
Figure 4.1	
Causes of maternal death	62
Figure 4.2	
Maternal mortality since the 1960s in Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand	66
Figure 4.3	
Number of years to halve maternal mortality, selected countries	68
Figure 5.1	
Deaths before five years of age, 2000	80
Figure 5.2	
Number of neonatal deaths by cause, 2000–2003	80

Figure 5.3	Changes in neonatal mortality rates between 1995 and 2000	81
Figure 5.4	Neonatal mortality in African countries shows stagnation and some unusual reversals	82
Figure 5.5	Neonatal mortality is lower when mothers have received professional care	88
Figure 5.6	The proportion of births in health facilities and those attended by medical doctors is increasing	92
Figure 5.7	The human resource gap in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, 2001	95
Figure 5.8	Cost of scaling up maternal and newborn care, additional to current expenditure	96
Figure 6.1	An integrated approach to child health	111
Figure 6.2	Proportion of districts where training and system strengthening for IMCI had been started by 2003	114
Figure 6.3	Cost of scaling up child health interventions, additional to current expenditure	116

Boxes

Box 1.1	Milestones in the establishment of the rights of women and children	5
Box 1.2	Why invest public money in health care for mothers and children?	6
Box 1.3	A reversal of maternal mortality in Malawi	11
Box 1.4	Counting births and deaths	12
Box 2.1	Economic crisis and health system meltdown: a fatal cascade of events	22
Box 2.2	How HIV/AIDS affects the health of women and children	23
Box 2.3	Health districts can make progress, even in adverse circumstances	25
Box 2.4	Mapping exclusion from life-saving obstetric care	27
Box 2.5	Building functional health districts: sustainable results require a long-term commitment	34
Box 3.1	Reducing the burden of malaria in pregnant women and their children	44
Box 3.2	Anaemia – the silent killer	45

Box 3.3		
	Violence against women	47
Box 4.1		
	Obstetric fistula: surviving with dignity	64
Box 4.2		
	Maternal depression affects both mothers and children	65
Box 4.3		
	Screening for high-risk childbirth: a disappointment	69
Box 4.4		
	Traditional birth attendants: another disappointment	70
Box 4.5		
	Preparing practitioners for safe and effective practice	72
Box 5.1		
	Explaining variations in maternal, neonatal and child mortality: care or context?	83
Box 5.2		
	Sex selection	85
Box 5.3		
	Overmedicalization	94
Box 5.4		
	A breakdown of the projected costs of extending the coverage of maternal and newborn care	97
Box 6.1		
	What do children die of today?	106
Box 6.2		
	How households can make a difference	110
Box 6.3		
	A breakdown of the projected cost of scaling up	118
Box 7.1		
	International funds for maternal, newborn and child health	126
Box 7.2		
	Building pressure: the partnerships for maternal, newborn and child health	127
Box 7.3		
	MNCH, poverty and the need for strategic information	128
Box 7.4		
	Sector-wide approaches	129
Box 7.5		
	Rebuilding health systems in post-crisis situations	133
Box 7.6		
	Civil society involvement requires support	142

Tables

Table 1.1	Neonatal and maternal mortality in countries where the decline in child mortality has stagnated or reversed	16
Table 2.1	Factors hindering progress	22
Table 4.1	Incidence of major complications of childbirth, worldwide	63
Table 4.2	Key features of first-level and back-up maternal and newborn care	71
Table 5.1	Filling the supply gap to scale up first-level and back-up maternal and newborn care in 75 countries (from the current 43% to 73% coverage by 2015 and full coverage in 2030)	96
Table 6.1	Core interventions to improve child survival	115