

# Key global health partnerships for maternal and newborn health

In recent years, global health partnerships have emerged to lend attention to, and raise resources for, maternal and newborn health. Some of the key partnerships are highlighted below.

- **The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health** is a global health partnership launched in September 2005 that brings together maternal, newborn and child health organizations into an alliance of some 240 member groups. The Partnership, hosted and administered from Geneva by the World Health Organization, advocates for greater investment and commitment to saving the lives of mothers and children. In July 2008, it issued a Global Call asking G8 leaders to fund basic health services for women, newborns and children and urging organizations and individuals to sign on to its demands for political leadership and investment.

- **Deliver Now for Women + Children Campaign** is a new advocacy drive to eliminate maternal and child deaths and improve the health of women and children around the world, co-ordinated by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health. It is a response to concern that the world is lagging far behind in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for reducing maternal and child deaths.

- **The Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals** was unveiled on 26 September 2007 by Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York. The Global Campaign is supported by several governments, including the UK, Norway, Canada, France and Germany, as well as a number of prominent global health and advocacy organizations. It attaches special importance to the health of women and children, “whose needs remain the most neglected.” The Global Campaign brings together a number of related initiatives including:

- **The International Health Partnership**, launched in London by UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown in September 2007, aims to help build national health systems in some of the poorest countries in the world.
- **The Catalytic Initiative to Save a Million Lives**, launched by Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in November 2007, aims to strengthen health systems by training frontline health workers and delivering affordable healthcare services directly to local communities.
- **Innovative Results-Based Financing**, launched by Norway and the World Bank in November 2007, seeks the most cost-effective ways of obtaining better health outcomes.
- **Providing for Health Initiative**, launched by Germany and France in 2008, aims to strengthen health systems by putting appropriate social health protection mechanisms in place with a view to achieving universal coverage.

- **Women Deliver** was launched in London in October 2007 to mark the 20th anniversary of global efforts to reduce high rates of maternal and newborn death and disability in the developing world – and to apply the knowledge gained from two decades of study and experience. The initiative aims to reframe maternal health as a basic human right and an integral strategy for achieving just development, reducing poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability. The organizing partner is Family Care International.

- **Saving Newborn Lives** is a Save the Children project to improve newborn survival in high-mortality countries. Since its launch in 2000, the initiative has reached more than 20 million mothers and babies with critical health services in 18 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

- **The White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood** is an international coalition of individuals and organizations formed to promote safe pregnancy and childbirth for all women. Members of the Alliance take action in their own countries to make this issue a priority for their governments and other international organizations.

- **The Initiative for Maternal Mortality Programme Assessment (IMMPACT)** is a global research initiative whose aim is to promote better health for mothers-to-be in developing countries. By carrying out studies of different strategies, and judging their effectiveness and the value for money they represent, IMMPACT aims to improve measurement and the supporting evidence that will help in the assessment of each strategy’s potential.

- **Countdown to 2015** was formed in 2005 by a group of scientists, policymakers, activists and institutions to track progress towards Millennium Development Goal 4. Coverage reports were made available at a conference for 60 priority countries for child survival initiatives. The second conference, held in April 2008, expanded the mandate of the Countdown to include maternal and neonatal survival, and the number of countries tracked in reports increased to 68.

- **Averting Maternal Death and Disability** is a global programme run by the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, that contributes to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity through research, advocacy, policy analysis and programme support. In recent years, the programme has operated in around 50 countries across the developing world.

*See References, page 112.*