BACKGROUND
Although remarkable progress has been made in recent decades to reduce the number of child deaths worldwide, too many newborns die each year. These deaths occur despite the availability of affordable, high-impact, evidence-based solutions. Mortality among newborns fell by 47 per cent over the period 1990 to 2015, a smaller decrease compared to the reduction in under-five mortality of 53 per cent witnessed during the same period. The global Every Newborn Action Plan was launched in 2014 with clear targets and strategies for reduction of neonatal deaths and still births.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
- Newborn specific indicators have been incorporated in HMIS by Bangladesh, India and Tanzania
- Antenatal corticosteroids included in National Essential Medicines List of Afghanistan, Angola, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe
- Chlorhexidine included in Essential Medicines List Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Uganda, Zimbabwe
- Newborn resuscitation devices included in Essential Medicines List in Afghanistan, Angola, China, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe
- India and Indonesia have prioritized research on stillbirths
- Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Viet Nam have developed national newborn communication strategies

SNAP SHOT OF PROGRESS IN 28 PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Newborn Action Plan Developed
Newborn component strengthened in RMNCAH plan
Newborn Action Plan Costed

2014
Indonesia, Viet Nam
Viet Nam

2015
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe
Afghanistan, Angola, China, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe
Afghanistan, China, Ghana, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda

CHALLENGES
- The numbers of countries completing the tool is limited to the selected focus countries and the returns come in very slowly and are low. In 2014, 10 out of 20 countries responded while in 2015, only 16 out of 28 countries responded
- Some countries do not have newborn targets and in a number of countries the targets are not in line with the global ENAP targets
- 20 out of the 28 priority countries do not have specific Still Birth Rate target

AREAS REQUIRING MORE ATTENTION IN MOST COUNTRIES
- Setting NMN and SBR targets for country newborn or integrated RMNCAH action plans
- Including specific newborn indicators in the HMIS
- Prioritizing newborn implementation research
- Development or scale-up of communication strategies

CONCLUSION
The main areas of progress in 2015 have been the development of national newborn action plans and the inclusion of life-saving maternal and newborn commodities in the essential medicines list. Areas requiring more attention in most countries are the inclusion of an SBR target in country newborn action plans, specific indicators in the HMIS, prioritizing newborn research agendas, the development or scale-up of communication strategies and community engagement.