Steady progress has been made, but many more lives can be saved

World leaders have been steadfast in their commitment to child survival and well-being – starting in late 1989 with the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 1990, the global community united behind the World Summit for Children. A decade later, world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration, which led to the subsequent adoption of the MDGs and positioned children at the centre of eight critical targets for human development. In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly passed a landmark resolution to build ‘A World Fit for Children’.

This sustained commitment to children has contributed to a remarkable decrease in child mortality that is unprecedented in human history. Over the past two decades, the number of under-five deaths has fallen dramatically, from nearly 12 million in 1990 to 6.9 million in 2011. Yet, even as the global and regional under-five mortality rates have fallen, the number of child deaths still remains unacceptably high. Every year, millions of children die from causes that we have the power to prevent − and diseases that we have the ability to treat.

The time has come to recommit to child survival and renew the promise to give every child the best possible start in life.

Join us.
Many countries have achieved marked declines in child mortality over the past two decades, including some that had very high mortality rates in 1990.

Globally, reductions in under-five mortality rates, combined with declining fertility rates in many regions and countries, have lowered the number of child deaths from nearly 12 million in 1990 to 6.5 million in 2011.

It can be done! Solutions to maternal, newborn and child deaths.

Build broad-based political support for maternal, newborn and child survival; foster alignment of sectoral goals, strategies and resources; encourage community mobilization for child survival; and accelerate effort among countries and regions in need.

Committed to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed is a global effort to accelerate action on maternal, newborn and child survival.

In June 2012, the Governments of Ethiopia, India and the United States convened more than 700 representatives from government, civil society and the private sector for the Child Survival Call to Action in Washington, D.C. Evidence presented at the high-level forum demonstrated that it is feasible to eliminate the grossest of inequities – the disparate child survival rates that persist between the poorest and richest nations. A modelling exercise showed that most countries can lower national rates of child mortality to 20 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births by 2035.

To make the most of this extraordinary opportunity, governments and partners are uniting under the banner of A Promise Renewed to support concerted action on three fronts:

- Strengthening evidence-based country action plans: Participating governments are sharpening their country action plans to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and setting five-year milestones to monitor progress from 2015 to 2035.
- Monitoring and reporting: Governments and partners are increasing the availability and accessibility of data and analyses on maternal, newborn and child mortality to encourage stronger accountability for child survival. Each year, UNICEF and partners will release global progress reports to stimulate public dialogue and sustain the political commitment to child survival.
- Promoting global communication and social mobilization for child survival: Governments and partners are mobilizing broad-based social support for the principle that no child should die from preventable causes. By harnessing the power of mobile technology, governments and partners are engaging all citizens, especially women and youth, in the search for innovative solutions to maternal, newborn and child survival.

Renewing the Promise — to every child: *It can be done!*