



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

From promise to action: Ending Preventable Maternal and Newborn Mortality in Kenya: Accelerating MDG 5 in 15 Counties with the highest burden Consultative Meeting of County Governors – 27 August 2014



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

COMMUNIQUÉ

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

We, the Governors of the 15 counties with the highest burden of maternal and newborn mortality in Kenya, met in Nairobi on August 27-28 2014, at the invitation of the Ministry of Health, the United Nations Population Fund and Kenya Red Cross, together with representatives from the World Bank Group, WHO, UNICEF, the donor community, NGOs, private sector, policy leaders and local authorities:

1. Recognize that Kenya has made substantial progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with the exception of MDG 5 (maternal health). We are concerned that the maternal mortality ratio for Kenya of 488 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births has not shown any improvement over the last two decades.
2. Recognize the urgent need for scaled-up action and targeted interventions by improving access to quality healthcare for women, newborns and child health, particularly in the high-burden counties but subsequently to be rolled out across the country—in order to accelerate progress on MDG 5.
3. Recognize that maternal, newborn and child health, and the survival of mothers and their newborns, are central to development; the empowerment of women to make informed choices are critical to improving the health of women, families and communities; and that adolescent girls have a higher chance of dying in pregnancy and childbirth and face grave barriers to life-saving information and services.
4. Recall the Consensus Statement of the Global Country Consultation on Targets and Strategies for Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality (EPMM) of April 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, that recognized EPMM is within reach, and that necessary acceleration of progress can be achieved by positioning maternal survival in the context of every woman's right to healthcare and the highest attainable level of health across the lifespan.
5. Recall the World Health Assembly Resolution of May 2014 on the Global Newborn Action Plan (WHA67.10) that commits to end preventable newborn deaths, and preventable stillbirths, through investments in high-quality care before, during, and following childbirth.
6. Recognize the urgent need to scale up action by improving access to quality healthcare for women, newborns and child health irrespective of the geographic location.
7. Build on the momentum of the First Lady's Beyond Zero Campaign that is about saving lives of Kenyan mothers and children.
8. Recognize that adolescent girls must be at the center of our policies and programmes; and we have the largest youth generation and we must empower them to become agents of change.
9. Share innovative and best practices implemented across countries and key strategies that County Governments need to undertake to accelerate the reduction of maternal and newborn deaths. We commit to collectively scale up support to and strengthen reproductive, maternal and newborn health systems in our respective counties where needs are greatest and reaffirm our commitment to stay focused on this 'unfinished' MDG 5 agenda and reach those with least access — the most marginalized, disadvantaged populations, including women and girls.
10. Enhance high-level advocacy and sensitize local authorities on the urgency to improved and equitable access to maternal, newborn and reproductive healthcare, including the elimination of harmful traditional and cultural practices.
11. Increase county-level investments in healthcare and ensure adequate human and financial resources towards maternal and newborn health.
12. Uphold the principles of equity, human-rights, gender equality that guide the provision and access of high-quality maternal and newborn healthcare for all.
13. Improve the healthcare infrastructure to support the delivery of emergency obstetric and newborn care services.
14. Strengthen data collection, analysis, documentation and information use for evidence in tracking progress in the implementation of maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality.
15. Undertake a multi-sectoral approach for the improvement of infrastructure to support access to roads and transportation, clean water and sanitation, and appropriate nutrition.
16. Strengthen public-private partnerships at all levels to leverage resources for addressing maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality.
17. Invest in the health and development of adolescents and youth, with a particular focus on successful transition of the adolescent girl to secondary level education.
18. Recognize that investment in Family Planning is the most cost-effective intervention for the reduction of maternal deaths, and population development.

We commit, together with partners, to improve the health and well-being of women and children, reduce poverty and advance sustainable development.

COMMITMENT BY:

H.E Cyprian Otieno Awiti
Homabay County

H.E Timamy Issa Abdalla
Lamu County

H.E Kinuthia Mbugua
Nakuru County

H.E Dr. Evans Kidero
Nairobi County

H.E Wycliff Oparanya
Kakamega County

H.E John Mtuta Mrutu
Taita Taveta County

H.E Zachary Obado
Migori County

H.E Jack Ranguma
Kisumu County

H.E Nathif Jama Adam
Garissa County

H.E Cornel Rasanga
Siaya County

H.E Ukur Yatani
Marsabit County

H.E Ahmed Addullahi Mohamed
Wajir County

H.E Josphat Koli Nanok
Turkana County

H.E Godana Doyo
Isiolo County

H.E Ali Ibrahim Roba
Mandera County

WITNESSED BY:

Hon. James Wainaina Macharia
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health

Ms. Nardos Thomas-Bekele
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