SNAP SHOT OF PROGRESS IN 28 PRIORITY COUNTRIES

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Newborn specific indicators have been incorporated in HMIS by Bangladesh, India and Tanzania.
- 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.

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 18 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 a Still Birth Rate target.

AREAS REQUIRING MORE ATTENTION IN MOST COUNTRIES

- Setting NMR and SBR targets for country newborn or integrated RMNCAH action plans
- Including newborn indicators in the HMIS
- Prioritizing newborn implementation research
- Development or scale-up of communication strategies
- Intensify efforts to initiate progress tracking in the priority countries that did not complete the tool as these countries have some of the worst newborn indicators.

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.