

# The Ending Preventable Stillbirths Scorecard: Global, December 2018

Tracking progress against the Lancet's Ending preventable stillbirths series call to action (2016)



Developed by the Stillbirth Advocacy Working Group, co-chaired by the International Stillbirth Alliance and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, founded by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

**For more details and references, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2LdGUDH>**

## Introduction to the Ending Preventable Stillbirths Scorecard: Global

Each year an estimated 2.6 million babies are stillborn. Progress to reduce this large burden has been slow. The 2016 Lancet Ending Preventable Stillbirths series sought to highlight missed opportunities and identify actions for accelerated progress to end preventable stillbirths. The series concluded with a Call to Action.

The Call to Action covers three distinct areas – (1) 2030 mortality targets, (2) universal health care coverage targets, and (3) global and national milestones for improving care and outcomes for all mothers and their babies (as specified by the Every Newborn Action Plan, or ENAP) and specifically for women and families affected by stillbirth.

The Global Scorecard has been produced by the Stillbirth Advocacy Working Group (SAWG) to track progress at a global level towards this Call to Action. The SAWG, founded by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in 2016 and co-chaired by the International Stillbirth Alliance and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, is a group of academics, researchers, parents and advocates from diverse organizations including UNICEF, FIGO, ICM, national and global non-governmental organizations, universities, and parent organizations. The SAWG's mission is to use advocacy for stillbirth prevention and post-stillbirth support.

Three years since the Call to Action was launched, how much progress has been made at a global level towards these targets and milestones? We hope that this global scorecard will be a useful resource for the global community, including UN bodies, bilateral organisations, parent organizations, donors and NGOs, in particular for highlighting areas where insufficient progress is being made and where further investments and actions are needed.

## The 2016 Lancet Ending Preventable Stillbirth series Call to Action

### Mortality targets by 2030 (included in the Every Newborn Action Plan)

- **National level:** 12 stillbirths or fewer per 1000 total births in every country
- **Subnational level:** All countries set and meet targets to close equity gaps and use data to track and prevent stillbirths

### Universal health care coverage targets

- **Family planning:** By 2020, 120 million more women and girls with access to contraceptives; by 2030, universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- **Antenatal care:** By 2030, universal quality of care and comprehensive antenatal care for all women
- **Care during labour and birth:** By 2030, effective and respectful intrapartum care to all women in all countries



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### Milestones

- **Respectful care**, including bereavement support after a death: By 2020, global consensus on a package of care after a death in pregnancy or childbirth for the affected family, community, and caregivers in all settings
- **Reduce stigma**: By 2020, all countries to identify mechanisms to reduce stigma associated with stillbirth among all stakeholders, particularly health workers and communities
- **Every Newborn global and national milestones** met by 2020, including the Measurement Improvement Roadmap (tracked separately by UNICEF/ WHO) **Every Newborn Progress Report 2018**

## Selection of indicators to track the Call to Action

Indicators were chosen by a subgroup of the SAWG to reflect the three areas of the Call to Action. Where possible, indicators already collated by UN and other organisations were used. In particular, the annual tracking tool used by UNICEF and WHO to monitor progress towards the Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) provides many indicators to track progress for maternal and newborn health, including stillbirths. Indicators were chosen in order to capture not only the ultimate outcomes of a component of the Call, but also the processes and policies required to achieve them.

The draft list of proposed indicators and draft scorecard were circulated in several rounds to the wider SAWG as well as targeted organisations including UNICEF, WHO, and the White Ribbon Alliance for comments and further suggestions, prior to finalising.

Indicators were scored according to benchmarks – from red (below expectation or no data), through to dark green (fully achieved). A full description of the indicators and scoring criteria is given in Annex 1. Overall global results are shown where available. In addition, results are shown for 74 high burden countries participating in the ENAP tracking tool (see Annex 2 for list). The simplified scorecard is shown below, with the detailed version in Annex 3.

## Main Findings

The 2018 scorecard shows that whilst some progress is being made towards the targets and milestones from the Ending Preventable Stillbirths Call to Action, further effort is needed. Information is currently lacking to track equity and quality of care indicators, although work is currently under way by WHO and UNICEF to close this information gap. No data are currently available to track country progress towards taking steps to reduce stigma, and more work is needed in this area.

There is evidence of some progress being made at a policy level towards these targets as well; for example, WHO has recently released recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience and intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience, and the Every Newborn Action Plan has encouraged the setting of newborn plans at a country level in high burden settings. However, there is still scope to improve attention and action for stillbirths prevention and post-stillbirth care within these initiatives and beyond, especially in the area of respectful supportive care after a death and actions to reduce stigma associated with stillbirth.

Figure: The Ending Preventable Stillbirths Scorecard: Global (Summary Version)

CALL TO ACTION COMPONENT	INDICATORS	Global	High Burden Countries		
			All	Africa	Asia
<b>Mortality targets by 2030</b>	1.1 Countries with Newborn Plan	○	●	●	●
	1.2 Countries with stillbirth rate target	○	●	●	●
	1.3 Countries achieved stillbirth rate global target	●	●	●	●
	1.4 Countries with a subnational Newborn Plan	○	●	●	●
	1.5 Countries with stillbirth rate equity target	○	○	○	○
	1.6 Countries reporting subnational SBRs	○	○	○	○
<b>UHC: Family planning</b>	2.1 Additional users of modern methods of contraception	● <sup>1</sup>	○	○	○
	2.2 Percentage demand for contraception satisfied	●	●	●	●
	2.3 Countries with reproductive health plan	○	○	○	○
<b>UHC: Antenatal care</b>	3.1 Availability of global standards for antenatal care	●	○	○	○
	3.2 Antenatal care	●	●	●	●
	3.3 Quality of antenatal care	●	●	●	●
<b>UHC: Care during labour and birth</b>	4.1 Global standards for intrapartum care	●	○	○	○
	4.2 Skilled birth attendants	●	●	●	●
	4.3 Quality of intrapartum care	○	○	○	○
<b>Milestones</b>	5.1 MNH Quality improvement	○	●	●	●
	5.2 Perinatal Death Review systems	○	●	●	●
	5.3 Research focusing on stillbirths planned by country	○	●	●	●
	5.4 Respectful care after a death	● <sup>2</sup>	○	○	○
	5.5 Reduce stigma	○	○	○	○

**LEGEND:**

● Achieved ● On track ● Making progress ● Slow/no progress ○ No data ○ Not applicable

**REFERENCES:**

<sup>1</sup> 120 million users  
<sup>2</sup> Co-ordinated background research undertaken to inform global consensus

\*See Annex 2 for full list of countries

Annex I: Description of indicator thresholds using colour codes

Indicator	Indicator Definition	Data Source				
<b>Mortality targets</b>						
1.1 Countries with Newborn Plan	Percentage of high burden countries with ENAP plan or sharpened maternal-newborn component within the RMNCAH plan	<a href="#">ENAP tracking tool</a> undertaken in 74 high burden countries annually by UNICEF	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50% or no data
1.2 Countries with stillbirth rate target	Percentage of high burden countries with target for stillbirth rate within ENAP or RMNCAH plan	<a href="#">ENAP tracking tool</a> undertaken in 74 high burden countries annually by UNICEF	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
1.3 Countries achieved stillbirth rate global target	Percentage of all countries reached SBR target of 12 or fewer per 1000 total births	<a href="#">WHO global health observatory</a> (for year 2015) UNIGME from 2018 onwards (next estimates expected 2020)	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
1.4 Countries with a sub-national Newborn Plan	Percentage of high burden countries with a sub-national ENAP plan or sharpened maternal-newborn component within the RMNCAH plan <sup>1</sup>	<a href="#">ENAP tracking tool</a> undertaken in 74 high burden countries annually by UNICEF	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
1.5 Countries with stillbirth rate equity target	Percentage of all countries with a stillbirth equity target	Equity targets not being routinely tracked. Case studies may be available for high-income countries (eg Australia, possibly Ireland).	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
1.6 Countries reporting subnational SBRs	Percentage of all countries reporting subnational SBRs	UNIGME will commence to collect this data from administrative data sources as part of ongoing stillbirth estimates work. No current plan for modelling subnational stillbirth rates in UNIGME	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
<b>UHC Family planning</b>						
2.1 Additional users of modern methods of contraception	The number of additional women (or their partners) of reproductive age currently using a modern contraceptive method compared to 2012	<a href="http://www.track20.org/">http://www.track20.org/</a> Estimated using data from surveys such as the DHS, RHS, MICS, PMA2020 and other nationally representative surveys, service statistics and population data. Updated annually	120 million additional users	≥90 million -<120 million additional users	≥60 million - <90 million additional users	<60 million additional users
2.2 Percentage demand for contraception satisfied	The percentage of women (or their partners) who desire either to have no additional children or to postpone the next child and who are currently using a modern contraceptive method. Women using a traditional method are assumed to have an unmet need for modern contraception.	<a href="http://www.track20.org/">http://www.track20.org/</a> Estimated using data from surveys such as the DHS, MICS, PMA2020, RHS and other nationally representative surveys; modelling using surveys and service statistics	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
2.3 Countries with reproductive health plan	Percentage of high burden countries with a reproductive health plan or sharpened reproductive component within the RMNCAH plan?	No data	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
<b>UHC: Antenatal care</b>						

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Indicator	Indicator Definition	Data Source				
3.1 Global standards for antenatal care	Availability of global standards for antenatal care	WHO clinical guidance updated for ' <a href="#">Pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and newborn care</a> ' (2015). ' <a href="#">WHO Antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience</a> ' (2016). ' <a href="#">Managing complications in pregnancy and childbirth</a> ' (2017).	Fully Achieved	NA	NA	NA
3.2 Antenatal Care	Percentage of women who receive at least 4 antenatal care visits	Joint tracking by <a href="#">WHO/ UNICEF</a> based on population based national household survey data and routine health systems	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
3.3 Quality of antenatal care	No validated indicator currently available for effective coverage of ANC, but methodological work ongoing at WHO.	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>UHC: Care during labor &amp; birth</b>						
4.1 Global standards for intrapartum care	Availability of global standards for intrapartum care	WHO clinical guidance updated for ' <a href="#">Pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and newborn care</a> ' (2015). ' <a href="#">Managing complications in pregnancy and childbirth</a> ' (2017). ' <a href="#">Intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience</a> ' (2018)	Fully Achieved	NA	NA	NA
4.2 Skilled birth attendants	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (SDG 3.1.2)	Joint tracking by <a href="#">WHO/ UNICEF</a> based on population based national household survey data and routine health systems	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
4.3 Quality of intrapartum care	No validated indicator currently available for effective coverage of intrapartum care, but methodological work ongoing at WHO.	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Milestones</b>						
5.1 MNH Quality improvement	Percentage of high burden countries reporting a national Quality Improvement plan with a specific focus on maternal and newborn health	<a href="#">ENAP tracking tool</a> undertaken in 74 high burden countries annually by UNICEF	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
5.2 Perinatal Death Review systems	Percentage of high burden countries reporting a perinatal death review system in place, either stand-alone or as part of maternal death review and response programmes	<a href="#">ENAP tracking tool</a> undertaken in 74 high burden countries annually by UNICEF	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
5.3 National Stillbirth Research	Percentage of high burden countries reporting research focusing on stillbirths underway or planned in their country	<a href="#">ENAP tracking tool</a> undertaken in 74 high burden countries annually by UNICEF	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0- <50% or no data
5.4 Respectful care after a death	Global consensus on a package of care after a death in pregnancy or childbirth for the affected family, community, and caregivers in all settings agreed by global stillbirth community including WHO	International Stillbirth Alliance is leading a multi-partner initiative to develop consensus on a global package  *to include a wide range of stakeholders from all geographical regions, including parents and front-line health workers	Global consensus reached and included in WHO guidance	Inclusive & transparent process underway *	Co-ordinated background research undertaken to inform global consensus	Limited or no co-ordinated global focused work begun

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Indicator	Indicator Definition	Data Source				
5.5 Reduce stigma	Number of countries instituting a process to identify mechanism to reduce stigma associated with stillbirth among all stakeholders, particularly health workers and communities	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

## Annex 2: List of 74 high burden countries participating in ENAP tracking tool

Afghanistan	DR Congo	Kazakhstan	Namibia	Swaziland
Angola	Djibouti	Kenya	Nepal	Syrian Arab Republic
Armenia	Egypt	Kyrgyzstan	Niger	Tajikistan
Azerbaijan	Eritrea	Lebanon	Nigeria	Timor-Leste
Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Lesotho	Pakistan	Togo
Benin	Gambia	Liberia	Papua New Guinea	Tunisia
Bhutan	Georgia	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Philippines	Turkmenistan
Botswana	Ghana	Madagascar	Rwanda	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Malawi	Senegal	Tanzania
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Maldives	Sierra Leone	Uzbekistan
Cameroon	India	Mali	Somalia	Viet Nam
Chad	Indonesia	Mauritania	South Sudan	Yemen
China	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Morocco	Sri Lanka	Zambia
Comoros	Iraq	Mozambique	State of Palestine	Zimbabwe
Côte d'Ivoire	Jordan	Myanmar	Sudan	

## Annex 3: Detailed Scorecard Acronyms and definitions

ANC – Antenatal Care

CRVS – Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

DHS – Demographic and Health Surveys

ENAP - Every Newborn Action Plan

MICS – Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

MNH - Maternal and Newborn Health

QI - Quality Improvement

RMNCAH – Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health

SAWG - Stillbirth Advocacy Working Group

SBR – Stillbirth Rate

UHC – Universal Healthcare

UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund

UNIGME – United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

WHO – World Health Organization

## Annex 4: The Ending Preventable Stillbirths Scorecard: Global (detailed version)

CALL TO ACTION COMPONENT		INDICATORS	PROGRESS			
			Global	High Burden Countries		
				All (n=74)	Africa (n=44)	Asia (n=30)
<b>Mortality targets by 2030</b>	12 stillbirths or fewer per 1000 total births in every country	1.1 Countries with Newborn Plan	○ NA	● 81%	● 73%	● 93%
		1.2 Countries with stillbirth rate target	○ NA	● 23%	● 16%	● 30%
		1.3 Countries achieved stillbirth rate global target	● 48%	● 23%	● 7%	● 47%
	All countries set and meet targets to close equity gaps and use data to track and prevent stillbirths	1.4 Countries with a subnational Newborn Plan	○ NA	● 31%	● 30%	● 30%
		1.5 Countries with stillbirth rate equity target	○	○	○	○
		1.6 Countries reporting subnational SBRs	○	○	○	○
<b>UHC: Family planning</b>	By 2020, 120 million more women and girls with access to contraceptives	2.1 Additional users of modern methods of contraception	● <sup>1</sup>	○ NA	○ NA	○ NA
	By 2030, universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	2.2 Percentage demand for contraception satisfied	● 68%	● 54%	● 48%	● 62%
		2.3 Countries with reproductive health plan	○	○	○	○
<b>UHC: Antenatal care</b>	By 2030, universal quality of care and comprehensive antenatal care for all women	3.1 Availability of global standards for antenatal care	●	○ NA	○ NA	○ NA
		3.2 Antenatal care	● 62%	● 56%	● 50%	● 59%
		3.3 Quality of antenatal care	○	○	○	○
<b>UHC: Care during labour and birth</b>	By 2030, effective and respectful intrapartum care to all women in all countries	4.1 Global standards for intrapartum care	●	○ NA	○ NA	○ NA
		4.2 Skilled birth attendants	● 78%	● 73%	● 57%	● 81%
		4.3 Quality of intrapartum care	○	○	○	○
<b>Milestones</b>	Every Newborn global and national milestones met by 2020, including the Measurement Improvement Roadmap	5.1 MNH Quality improvement	○ NA	● 53%	● 48%	● 60%
		5.2 Perinatal Death Review systems	○ NA	● 50%	● 52%	● 47%
		5.3 Research focusing on stillbirths planned by country	○ NA	● 27%	● 20%	● 37%
	Respectful care, including bereavement support after a death: by 2020, global consensus on a package of care after a death in pregnancy or childbirth for the affected family, community, and caregivers in all settings	5.4 Respectful care after a death	● <sup>2</sup>	○ NA	○ NA	○ NA
		Reduce stigma: by 2020, all countries to identify mechanisms to reduce stigma associated with stillbirth among all stakeholders, particularly health workers and communities	5.5 Reduce stigma	○	○	○

**LEGEND:** ● Achieved ● On track ● Making progress ● Slow/no progress ○ No data ○ Not applicable

**REFERENCES:**  
<sup>1</sup> 120 million users  
<sup>2</sup> Co-ordinated background research undertaken to inform global consensus