



mothersnight

Maternal death and disability is one of the greatest moral, human rights and development challenges of our time and is the world's largest health inequity.

MDG 5 is achievable...

Provide sufficient financing to strengthen health systems, particularly for maternal, childcare and other reproductive health services, and ensure that procurement and distribution of contraception, drugs and equipment are functioning.

Establish dedicated national programmes to reduce maternal mortality and ensure universal access to reproductive health care, including family planning services.

counseling for both men, women and adolescents. Increase efforts to prevent child marriage and ensure that young women postpone their first pregnancy.

Ensure access to timely emergency obstetric services and provide adequate communication, skilled personnel, facilities and transportation systems, especially in areas where poverty, conflict, great distances and overloaded health systems obstruct such efforts.

Adopt and implement policies that protect poor families from the catastrophic consequences of unaffordable maternity care, including through access to health insurance or free services.

Increase access to contraception and sexual and reproductive health

Provide trained health workers during and after pregnancy and childbirth for delivery of quality antenatal care, timely emergency obstetric services and contraception.

Protect pregnant women from domestic violence; and involve men in maternal health and wider reproductive health.

‘Make adolescents a priority by investing in their health, education and livelihoods; Strengthen health systems with sexual and reproductive health as a priority. If a health system can deliver for adolescents, it is a strong health system that benefits all.’

Committing to action: Achieving the MDGs, Background note by the Secretary-General for the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations, New York, 25 September 2008; The Millennium Development Goals Report 2008, United Nations; UNFPA Webpage No Woman Should Die Giving Life: Facts and Figures, <http://www.unfpa.org/safemotherhood>



Produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents are the sole responsibility of SOS Malta and can under no circumstance be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.



ADOLESCENTS

MDG 5 - GET THE FACTS - *There are more than 600 million girls in the developing world. Millions of them lack access to education and health services, are subject to harmful practices like early marriage and female genital mutilation, and are vulnerable to HIV and AIDS, violence and abuse.*

MATERNAL HEALTH

- Maternal deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth are an important cause of mortality for girls aged 15-19 worldwide, accounting for 70,000 deaths each year.
- Girls who give birth before the age of 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their twenties.

EARLY MARRIAGE

- Worldwide, more than 60 million women aged 20-24 were married before they turned 18.
- If present trends continue, more than 100 million girls will probably be married as children in the next decade.
- Each year, 15 million adolescent girls become mothers.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- It is estimated that 150 million girls under 18 have experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual violence involving physical contact.
- Between 1 and 4 out of every 10 women have experienced physical violence before the age 16.
- For a large number of girls, the first experience of sexual intercourse in adolescence is unwanted and even coerced.

HIV AND AIDS

- Globally, young people aged 15-24 account for 45 per cent of all new HIV infections in adults.
 - In sub-Saharan Africa, 75 per cent of the infections are among young women.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, young women aged 15-24 are three times more likely to be HIV-infected than male counterparts.

EDUCATION

- Girls represent 55 per cent of the more than 75 million children who are not enrolled in primary school.
- Of over 513 million students enrolled in secondary schools in 2006, only 47 per cent are girls.
- Women represent 59 per cent of the world's more than 130 million illiterate youth.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING

- Around 70 million girls and women aged 15-49 in 27 countries of Africa and the Middle East are estimated to have undergone genital mutilation or cutting.

'Make adolescents a priority by investing in their health, education and livelihoods; Strengthen health systems with sexual and reproductive health as a priority. If a health system can deliver for adolescents, it is a strong health system that benefits all.'