

## **Newborn health**

### **Report by the Secretariat**

1. Although remarkable progress has been made in recent decades to reduce the number of child deaths worldwide, neonatal mortality rate has declined at a slower pace despite a large proportion of newborn deaths being preventable. Opportunities for addressing newborn health are unprecedented as, today, much more is known about effective interventions and service delivery channels, as well as about approaches to accelerate coverage and quality of care. Recently, renewed commitments to saving the lives of newborn infants have been made by many governments and partners, in response to the United Nations Secretary-General's *Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health* (2010) and its accompanying *Every Woman, Every Child* initiative and to recommendations made by the Commission on Information and Accountability (2011) and the Commission on Life-saving Commodities (2012). This has triggered an initiative by multiple stakeholders to propose to the global health community the development of a draft global action plan called *Every newborn: an action plan to end preventable deaths*.

### **PROCESS**

2. The first phase has been the development of the technical document, which started with a systematic review of the progress in newborn health made globally in the last decade. This included a review of the epidemiological situation, the effectiveness of interventions available, as well as bottlenecks faced by countries in implementation at scale of effective newborn health interventions. The technical document has been guided by the advice of experts, and partners, led by WHO and UNICEF. There have also been several multi-stakeholder consultations at different global and regional forums.

3. The second phase is the consultative process with Member States, in particular regarding the goals and actions being proposed for the five strategic directions and their related targets.

4. The technical paper providing the draft of the *Every newborn: an action plan to end preventable deaths* is now available on the WHO website for consultation by Member States and other stakeholders.<sup>1</sup>

5. The web-based consultation process will begin following the 134th session of the Executive Board, with a deadline of the end of February for receipt of comments. A Note Verbale will be sent to Member States before the end of January, setting out the web consultation process on the draft, and inviting feedback.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://origin.who.int/maternal\\_child\\_adolescent/topics/newborn/en/](http://origin.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/newborn/en/).

6. Following the end of the consultation, the document will be revised, taking into account comments received, and it will be finalized by the end of March 2014.

7. The final draft of the draft action plan will be presented to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly for consideration.

#### **ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

8. The Board is invited to note the report, and advise, as appropriate, on the proposed process for development of the draft action plan “Every newborn: an action plan to end preventable deaths”.

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