SPECIAL SESSION COUNTDOWN/
MATERNAL, NEWBORN & CHILD HEALTH

ITALY'S CASE STUDY:
Legislating for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

PRESENTS:
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Background

- Partners: Italian Women Parliamentarians, Italian NGO O.N.Da, World Health Organization and The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

- 23rd January 2009: Working meeting to develop two draft bills:
  - Led by Sen Laura Bianconi: recommendations to reduce high use of C-section deliveries in Italy to align with WHO recommendations – national interest
  - Led by Sen. Rossana Boldi – recommendation to increase Italy's international development aid for maternal, newborn & child health – international relevance.
Analysing the facts: the good news

- ODA for MNCH increased from 2 billion in 2003 to 3.5 US$ in 2006 (representing 3% of total development aid in 2006)
- Aid towards child health increased 63%
- ODA for maternal and newborn health increased 66%
- Per capita ODA for 68 priority countries has doubled in this period of time

Source: The Lancet
However...

- Only 2% goes to health budget
- Mostly targeted project-based aid (malaria, vaccination programmes...)
- Level of ODA is variable and unpredictable
- ODA for child health is well targeted to high burden countries, however this is not the case for high-burden maternal and child mortality countries
Following the recommendations from the Countdown...

✓ Represent the voices of women and children
✓ Legislate to ensure universal access to essential care
✓ Oversee government accountability to implement policies
✓ Budget for maternal, newborn and child health
✓ Advocate nationally and internationally for the Millennium Development Goals
Draft bill in Parliament asks the Government to:

- Raise awareness & increase international support for MNCH issues
- Increase Italy's ODA, as chair of G8
- Support health professional training programmes
- Increase financial budget support for countries
- Earmark ODA to maternal, newborn and child health to ensure progress of MDGs 4 & 5
GRAZIE