

**SPECIAL SESSION COUNTDOWN/
MATERNAL, NEWBORN & CHILD HEALTH**

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



PRESENTS:

Sen. Barbara Contini (PdL)

Italian Delegation to the 120th IPU Assembly

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.



*Permanent Mission of Italy
to the International
Organizations*



**Osservatorio Nazionale
sulla salute della Donna**

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*

Greco G, Powell-Jackson T, Borghi J, Mills A (2008) Countdown to 2015: assessment of donor assistance to maternal, newborn, and child health between 2003 and 2006. Lancet, 371: 1268-1275.

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

Budget for maternal, newborn and child health

Legislate to ensure universal access to essential care

Advocate nationally and internationally for the Millennium Development Goals

Oversee government accountability to implement policies

Countdown to 2015
Maternal, Newborn & Child Survival
www.countdownto2015.org

- ✓ **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

We legislate....

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

