

## Annex I. Details on estimates produced by interagency groups used in the *Countdown* report—mortality, immunization, and water and sanitation

### Mortality

*Countdown to 2030* relies on UN interagency estimates on child and maternal mortality that are produced for official Sustainable Development Goal reporting. These estimates are used to monitor progress at the global level because they are made comparable across countries and over time by applying standard methods to generate country, regional and global estimates. The UN mortality estimates are generated based on national data but may not always correspond precisely to the results from the most recent available data source or to country official estimates due to differences in the methods applied.

**Child mortality.** The child mortality estimates in this report (neonatal mortality rate, infant mortality rate, under-five mortality rate and number of under-five deaths) are based on the work of the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), which includes the United Nations Children’s Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Division and the World Bank. The UN IGME estimates are the official UN estimates for measuring progress towards Millennium Development Goal 4 (reduce child mortality). The UN IGME compiles available data from all possible nationally representative sources for a country, including household surveys, censuses and vital registration systems, and uses a model to fit a regression line to the data to produce the mortality estimates. Estimates are updated every year after a detailed review of all newly available data points. The review may result in adjustments to previously reported estimates as new data become available and provide more information on past trends.

The data inputs, methods and full time series of the UN IGME estimates for all countries are available at [www.data.unicef.org](http://www.data.unicef.org) and [www.childmortality.org](http://www.childmortality.org).

**Maternal mortality.** Maternal mortality estimates for 1990–2015 are based on the work of the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group, which comprises the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Bank. Maternal mortality data—more sparse than child mortality data—are from sources such as vital registration systems, surveys and censuses. Maternal mortality estimates from these sources are subject to serious misclassification and under-reporting. These data are therefore adjusted to account for these errors, and multilevel regression models are fit to predict levels and trends in maternal mortality between 1990 and 2015. Covariates used in the models include gross domestic product per capita, general fertility rate and skilled birth attendance. For more information, see WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and United Nations Population Division (2015).

### Immunization

The immunization data published in this report are based on the work of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund. The estimates should not be confused with other sources of information, such as Demographic and Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys or administratively reported data from ministries of health. The World Health Organization and United Nations Children’s Fund use data reported by national immunization programmes as well as surveys and other sources to obtain estimates of national immunization coverage each year. A draft report is sent to each country for review and comment. Final reports are published in July with coverage estimates for the preceding calendar year. All new evidence, such as final survey reports received after publication, are taken into consideration during production of the following year’s estimates. For each country’s final report for 2015 as well as methods, data sources and brief description of trends, see [www.data.unicef.org](http://www.data.unicef.org) and [www.who.int/immunization/monitoring\\_surveillance/data/en/](http://www.who.int/immunization/monitoring_surveillance/data/en/).

### Water and sanitation

The drinking-water and sanitation coverage estimates in this report are produced by the World Health Organization–United Nations Children’s Fund Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene. The estimates are the official UN estimates for measuring progress towards the Millennium Development Goal targets for drinking-water and sanitation. They use a standard classification of what constitutes coverage. The Joint

household sample surveys and censuses. For specific country data, see [www.childinfo.org](http://www.childinfo.org) and [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org) [[www.washdata.org](http://www.washdata.org)].