Maternal and child survival
Review of the decade 2010-2020

Maternal and child survival: a decade of progress and action for the future
21 March, Washington DC

Ties Boerma, University of Manitoba
and Countdown to 2030 for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health
Digging into the data story: 2010-2020

• **Survival**: big mortality reductions, “grand convergence”?

• **Coverage of interventions**: big improvements, is it enough?

• **Sustainability**: health systems, pandemic, conflicts
New UN mortality estimates – main messages

Maternal mortality
- Decline by 34% since 2000, but only 12% during last decade; 287,000 maternal deaths in 2020

Under-5 and neonatal mortality
- Decline continues, some slowdown. 2.3 mln neonatal + 2.7 mln 1-59 months deaths

Stillbirths
- 1.9 mln in 2020, down from 2.4 mln in 2010

- Highest and increasing share of the mortality burden in sub-Saharan Africa, driven by slower decline of mortality rates, and increasing share of births in the world
- Global reduction from 142 to 134 mln during 2010-2021, Sub-Saharan Africa increased from 35 to 40 mln (25% to 30% of global total)
Under-5 mortality by country income groups 2010-2021: Progress towards “grand convergence” and road to 2030 (target 25/1,000)
Under-5 mortality 2010 - 2020: Digging deeper reveals large inequalities but decline for all

- Poorest in Nigeria
- Nigeria
- West and Central Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Eastern and Southern Africa
- South Asia
- South Africa
- Richest in South Africa

Under-5 mortality per 1,000 live births
Maternal mortality, stillbirths and neonatal mortality: 2010-2020

- **Maternal mortality**
  - Sub-Saharan Africa: 18% decline
  - South Asia: 38% decline

- **Neonatal mortality**
  - Sub-Saharan Africa: 17% decline
  - South Asia: 34% decline

- **Stillbirth rates**
  - Sub-Saharan Africa: 17% decline
  - South Asia: 30% decline
Intervention coverage - good progress (but)

*Family planning, facility births, antenatal care, measles immunization*

![Graph showing intervention coverage across different regions and time periods.](image-url)
Sustainability: resilience and recovery post epidemic and conflict

**Ebola, West Africa**

Coverage index RMNCH

- Liberia
  - 2013 DHS
  - 2019 DHS

- Sierra Leone
  - 2013 DHS
  - 2017 MICS
  - 2019 DHS

**COVID19 and RMNCH services**

Change in service use, 2020-2021

- 18 countries

**Post conflict recovery**

Coverage index RMNCH

- 12 countries, sub-Saharan Africa
Sustainability of the gains

**Country health systems**

**Total Health Expenditure per Capita (US$)**
- **2010 and 2020**
  - Eastern & Southern Africa: 57, 51
  - West & Central Africa: 38, 54

**Physicians and nurse-midwives per 10,000 population, 2010 and 2020**
- **2010 and 2020**
  - Eastern & Southern Africa: 8, 13
  - West & Central Africa: 6, 8
Conclusions

• Major under-5, neonatal and maternal mortality reductions 2010-2021: progress everywhere but no grand convergence of countries

• Major increases intervention coverage but not immunization (and limited data on quality of care)

• Several positive signs regarding sustainability of the gains

• Sub-Saharan Africa: despite major progress increasingly the priority region with higher mortality risks and more births