TRACKING PROGRESS IN CHILD SURVIVAL
THE 2005 REPORT
Tracking Progress in Child Survival: The 2005 Report

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TRACKING PROGRESS IN CHILD SURVIVAL
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AARR  Average annual rate of reduction
ARV   Anti-retroviral treatment
CHERG Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group
DHS   Demographic and Health Surveys
GAVI  Global Alliance for Vaccines Initiative
GFATM Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria
Hib   Haemophilus influenzae type B
ILO   International Labour Organization
IMCI  Integrated management of childhood illness
ISCO  International Standard Classification of Occupations
ITNs  Insecticide-treated nets
LSHTM London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
JMP   Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation
WHO   World Health Organization
MDGs  Millennium Development Goals
MERG  Roll Back Malaria Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group
MICS  Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
NMR   Neonatal Mortality Rate
OECD  Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PMNCH Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.
SWAps Sector-Wide Approaches
U5MR  Under-five mortality rate
UNGASS United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund
WFFC  World Fit for Children
WHO   World Health Organization
A brief history of the *Countdown* effort

Ten years from now, in 2015, the governments of the world will meet to assess if we have achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the most widely ratified set of development goals ever, signed onto by every country in the world (http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/). MDG-4 commits the global community to reducing under-five child deaths by two-thirds from a baseline in 1990. MDG-5 has as its target reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters in the same time period.

Almost three years ago, in 2003, the Bellagio *Lancet* Child Survival Series helped to raise global awareness that each year over 10 million children under five die in the world, mainly from preventable conditions that rarely kill children in rich countries.\(^2\)\(^-\)\(^6\) This year, a second *Lancet* series focused on a previously neglected subset of child deaths – the almost 40% of all under-five deaths which occur among newborn babies.\(^7\)\(^-\)\(^10\) Together, these two series provided the necessary evidence to revitalise efforts to reduce child and newborn deaths and to achieve MDG-4. Both series demonstrated that the majority of child deaths could be prevented with simple, low-cost interventions feasible now, yet not reaching poor children. Massive increases are required in coverage of essential interventions to reach MDG-4.

What has happened in the intervening years since the Bellagio series was published in 2003? Has there been a renewed interest in child and newborn survival? Has this interest led to meaningful change in efforts to improve coverage? Have there been increases in the financial commitments to child and newborn survival?

These three years have seen real progress in advocacy for child and newborn survival. The leaders of both WHO and UNICEF have made public commitments to reducing child mortality.\(^11\) A global child survival partnership was formed, and in 2005 joined forces with related efforts in maternal and newborn health to form an expanded group called the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). PMNCH will focus on high-level