

Global Status of Child Health and Opportunities

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In 2015 the millennium development goals came to an end and the world celebrated the progress made between 1990 and 2015 particularly in reducing maternal and child mortality. Although progress was insufficient to achieve the MDG 4 target of a two thirds reduction by 2015, globally, deaths in children aged under 5 years declined by approximately 53% from 12.7 million in 1990 to **5.9** million in 2015. The two top causes of death in children under five in developing countries are prematurity and pneumonia. Other main causes are diarrhoea and malaria associated with malnutrition in 45% of the cases. Among those children who survive an estimated 200 million children are unable to attain their full developmental potential.

Today congenital anomalies, non-communicable diseases, and injuries are becoming increasingly important causes of morbidity and mortality in childhood there by highlighting the dual burden of childhood diseases, affecting most countries in the coming years.

The coming years provide excellent opportunities for accelerating action to ensure that every child receives the services and care it needs and that no child is left behind. Building on the lessons learned from the MDG era, supported by ambitious SDG goals and targets with governments on the driving seat and stakeholders at large united behind the Universal Health Coverage framework, the coming years can be a turning point towards a reinvigorated agenda in which children are enabled not only to survive but also to thrive.