



LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

THE GOAL

By 2025, achieve a 30% reduction in low birth weight

WHY IT MATTERS



Low birth weight is a major predictor of **perinatal mortality and morbidity**



Low birth weight increases the risk for **non-communicable diseases** such as diabetes and heart disease **later in life**



Majority of low birth weight births occur in **low- and middle-income countries**



Low birth weight is a global concern

some high-income countries are also faced with high rates for their contexts

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE

WHAT?

Integrated health care for mother and child

HOW?

Fully integrate pregnancy care with appropriate neonatal and post-neonatal medical and nutritional care for preterm and small for gestational age infants



ADOLESCENT GIRLS

WHAT?

Improve maternal nutrition beginning with adolescent girls

HOW?

Enact policies and/or strengthen interventions to improve adolescent nutrition and health



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

WHAT?

Improve linkage and referral for facility births, and promote healthy behaviors (good nutrition, smoking cessation) during and after pregnancy

HOW?

Strengthen community-based packages of care



SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Overall, it is estimated that

15% to 20%

of all births worldwide are low birth weight, representing more than

20 million births a year