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.

Overall, it is estimated that 15% to 20% of all births worldwide are low birth weight, representing more than 20 million births a year.

**The Goal**

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

**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.