MNCH in the news: September 2010

Four million child deaths avoidable in past decade: report
AFP – 7 September 2010
Four million children have died in the past decade because governments have not spread major medical advances to the poor, a leading aid group said ...

Many HIV-Infected Kids Could Use Cheaper Treatment Safely
Bloomberg Businessweek – 7 September 2010
A new U.S. National Institutes of Health-funded study suggests there may be a way to administer one particularly cheap and practical HIV drug -- nevirapine -- safely and effectively to many of these children.

Helping immigrants learn to talk openly about AIDS
The Seattle Times – 7 September 2010
For African immigrants, who come from countries with high HIV/AIDS rates and where the disease is often considered a death sentence, talking about AIDS in the U.S. is often difficult. That's particularly true for immigrant women, who are often the most difficult to reach with services, say local health providers.

HIV poses rising risk to Chinese women
Asia One – 8 September 2010
By the end of 2009, women accounted for more than 30 percent of the estimated 740,000 cases of HIV in China, compared to 15.3 percent in 1998, according to the latest research by the UNAIDS, announced on Tuesday.

Gulu mothers living with HIV deliver 307 healthy babies
The New Vision – 7 September 2010
Mothers living with HIV/AIDS in Gulu district have for the last one year delivered 307 HIV-negative babies under the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission programme.

Maternal health key to fighting poverty
Sify News (India) – 7 September 2010
Improving maternal health can help fight poverty, which is a top goal under the UN's millennium development campaign, experts said Tuesday.

Ghana Is Short Of Midwives
Peace FM Online (Ghana) – 7 September 2010
Dr. Ebenezer Appiah-Denkyira, Director in-charge of Human Resource for Health Development of the Ministry of Health (MOH), has advocated the training of more midwives to improve the midwife patient ratio which now stands at 1:7,200.
After census, family planning back in spotlight
The Jakarta Post (Indonesia) – 8 September 2010
Indonesia’s population has increased by more than 32 million people 237.6 million over the last 10 years to, according to the interim 2010 census results, leading some experts to ask if the country might face a population boom in the near future.

BBC WM Papal Debate: Contraception
BBC – 7 September 2010
In the second in a series of debates in the build up to the Pope's visit to Birmingham, BBC WM held a discussion on the issue of contraception.

Now, condoms at every doorstep to curb population boom
NDTV – 8 September 2010
India's health ministry is preparing an ambitious plan to ensure that condoms reach every home in the country's 600,000 villages in a bid to curb the runaway population growth, a senior official said.

Johnson & Johnson Donates $200M Toward Meeting Maternal, Children's Health MDGs
Medical News Today – 13 September 2010
On Wednesday, Johnson & Johnson announced a five-year, $200 million program focusing on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of improving maternal and children's health in developing nations, the AP/Yahoo! News reports. The program -- "Every Mother, Every Child" -- aims to provide aid to up to 120 million women and children annually for the next five years. The program will operate in more than 50 countries (Johnson, AP/Yahoo! News, 9/8).

Scientists develop first test to predict pre-eclampsia in early pregnancy
Daily Mail – 14 September 2010
Scientists are developing a blood test that could identify women at risk of a potentially life-threatening pregnancy condition, a report revealed today. There is currently no way of predicting pre-eclampsia which raises blood pressure and can lead to strokes and even death ... 

Early HIV treatment may be cheaper than thought
Plus News: South Africa – 13 September 2010
MANZINI, 13 September 2010 (PlusNews) - Research by South Africa’s University of the Witwatersrand and Boston University in the US, has found that starting HIV-positive people on antiretrovirals (ARVs) earlier, and at a higher CD4 count (a measure of immune system strength), may be cheaper than previously thought.

CDC report: Breast-feeding rates are up at birth
USA Today – 14 September 2010
In 2007, three-quarters of babies born in the USA were breast-fed at least briefly, continuing a decade-long increase, but the proportion still being breast-fed at 6 months and 12 months old had stalled, according to a "report card" Monday from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Unicef alerta sobre crecimiento de la tasa de muertes infantiles en el mundo
La República – 10 septembre 2010
Según Unicef, existe una relación directa entre la prestación de servicios esenciales a niños y niñas con el avance hacia los Objetivos del Milenio. Uruguay es uno de los países que presenta escolarización al 100% de los niños y estándares de prevención de enfermedades, acceso al agua potable y reducción de la mortalidad infantil.

Boosting breastfeeding through public policy
Los Angeles Times – 13 September 2010
The benefits of breastfeeding are widely acknowledged. The government should rein in formula companies and even well-meaning hospitals that nudge new moms toward formula.

Sex and drugs and Russian roulette
The Guardian – 14 September 2010
HIV and Aids have gripped Russia’s drug users and sex workers and transmission rates are spiralling. What next for the hidden epidemic?

Maternal deaths fall 34 percent, still above U.N. target
Reuters – 15 September 2010
(Reuters) - Deaths from complications during pregnancy and childbirth have fallen by a third in the past two decades but 1,000 women still die needlessly every day, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

Handle maternal, child mortality with urgency
The New Vision – 14 September 2010
Uganda hosted the African Union summit during which declarations highlighting problems and solutions to high maternal and child mortality rates on the continent were made. This was a commendable development. One hopes that African leaders will move from verbal promises to action.

Between life, birth and death
The Guardian – 14 September 2010
Up to 500,000 women worldwide die while pregnant or in childbirth – and half of them are in sub-Saharan Africa. But gradually healthcare and survival rates are improving.

3 out of 4 new moms initiate breastfeeding—CDC
The Money Times – 14 September 2010
According to the '2010 Breast-feeding Report Card' released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Monday, the rate of breastfeeding initiation in the United States in 2007 is near the national goal of 75 percent, with three-out-of-four new moms are breastfeeding their infants.
Could trade rules spell the end of lifesaving cheap Aids drugs?
The Guardian – 14 September 2010
Several million people are alive today - and fit and active and looking after their children - who would have been dead, had it not been for the roll-out in recent years of antiretroviral drugs to treat people with HIV/Aids.
This is a spectacular success story - even though less than half (4 million out of 9.5 million) people who need them are so far on treatment.

Fertility organisations call for cross border regulations to protect IVF patients
BMJ – 14 September 2010
The safety of UK couples who travel abroad for in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment is being jeopardised by the lack of uniform clinical and safety regulations, say fertility organisations.

Aust assists reproductive health care
The Sydney Morning Herald – 15 September 2010
Australia is spending $A400,000 backing the publication of a United Nations and World Health Organisation field manual on reproductive health for healthcare workers and volunteers on the Thai-Burma border.
The manual is set to play a vital role assisting Burmese women in communities displaced by conflict and natural disaster.

Teen pregnancy on the rise
AllAfrica.com – 15 September
More than 7 000 teenagers between the ages of 12 and 18 have fallen pregnant in the Western Cape in the past year, the provincial department of health has revealed.
In a parliamentary reply this week, Health MEC Theuns Botha revealed that almost 14 400 teenagers in the province gave birth to live babies in the past two years.
A total of 7 060 babies were born to teenage mothers in the past 12 months, and 7 327 were born the previous year.

Expectant moms at high risk after floods
Pakistan Daily – 13 September 2010
MUZAFFARGARH: Sughra Ramzan knew something was wrong when strange pains began ripping through her stomach for the second time. The pregnant mother feared her baby was in trouble — but there was nothing she could do.

Cycle of stress - Getting pregnant, having monster PMS - how the S factor may play a part
The Boston Globe – 13 September 2010
It’s a story that rings familiar: A couple tries and tries — frustration surging — to have a baby, finally deciding to adopt. Then, lo and behold, the woman receives the news that once proved elusive: You’re pregnant. Maybe, armchair psychiatrists have long opined, it has something to do with a cloud of stress dissipating.
Or consider women who swear that the fatigue, bloat, and irritability that herald a menstrual period are magnified when life’s anxieties rage with particular ferocity.
**Baby with defects born every 30 seconds in China**

People's Daily – 13 September 2010

Sept. 12, 2010 is China's fifth "Birth Defects Prevention Day."

As experts have said, China has a high incidence of birth defects. Every year about 800,000 to 1.2 million Chinese babies are born with defects, indicating that a baby with defects is born every 30 seconds in China.

Only between 20 and 30 percent of these infants can live a relatively good life after early diagnosis and proper treatments, while 30 to 40 percent will die shortly after birth.

**First Azerbaijani textbook on reproductive health and family planning published**

Trend News Agency – 13 September 2010

The first textbook on reproductive health and family planning in Azerbaijan has been published. The new book will play an important role in creating healthy families in Azerbaijan, U.S. Charge d’Affaires in Azerbaijan Adam Sterling said at a presentation of the book, which was prepared with financial support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in cooperation with the Azerbaijani Health Ministry, the Azerbaijani Medical University and the Doctors’ Advanced Institute.

**Let us focus on youth sexual reproductive health**

The New Vision – 15 September 2010

According to the UDHS report, the youth make up 55% of Uganda’s population. So, if the youth do not have access to sexual reproductive health services and information, Uganda is more likely to experience a population doom than a population bonus in future.

The World Health Organisation defines health as the complete physical, mental and social well-being of an individual, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Sexual reproductive health refers to many factors that impact sexual function and reproduction. These factors include a variety of physical and emotional issues.

**Gov't allots P8.2-B to fight infant, maternal mortality**

ABS-CBN News – 14 September 2010

MANILA, Philippines - The Aquino government is spending a total of P8.2 billion next year to curb infant and maternal mortality ahead of the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), House Deputy Majority Leader Roman Romulo said on Tuesday.

Romulo said some P5.7 billion will be spent to put up a total of 1,278 basic and comprehensive emergency obstetrics and newborn care facilities countrywide. The facilities are meant to significantly minimize the number of newborns and women lost due to childbirth-related and pregnancy complications, he said.

**PM should give priority to child mortality, says NGO**

Thaindian News – 14 September 2010

New Delhi, Sep 14 (IANS) International child rights organisation Save the Children Tuesday requested Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to participate in the high-level UN summit on Millennium Development Goals to discuss ways to reduce child mortality in India, which is the highest in the world.

The UN summit will be held at the United Nations Sep 20-22 and will assess and discuss the progress in the Millennium Development Goals, especially MDG-4, to reduce child mortality rate.
Over 100 billion dollars needed for millennium goals: Ban
Agence France Presse – 13 September 2010
UNITED NATIONS — More than 100 billion dollars will be needed over the next five years to hope to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on cutting poverty and boosting health, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said Monday.
About 26 billion dollars would be needed for the world’s poorest 49 countries in 2011 and the figure would rise to 42 billion dollars by 2015 -- the target date for the development goals, Ban told a press conference.
An international summit on the MDGs is to be held at the UN headquarters next week, aiming to kickstart floundering efforts to reach the eight aims first set at the Millennium summit in 2000.

UN says maternal deaths drops by a third globally
Xinhua – 15 September 2010
NAIROBI, Sept. 15 (Xinhua) -- The number of women dying due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth has decreased by 34 percent from an estimated 546,000 in 1990 to 358,000 in 2008, according to a new report published on Wednesday.

34% mortalita’ materna nel mondo, Italia in buona posizione
Il Tempo – 15 September 2010
Roma, 15 set. (Adnkronos Salute) - Le vittime di complicanze durante la gravidanza o il parto si sono ridotte di oltre un terzo (34%) in vent’anni in tutto il mondo. Lo rivela il nuovo rapporto diffuso oggi da Organizzazione mondiale della sanità, Unicef, Unfpa e Banca Mondiale a Ginevra.

Deaths during childbirth have dropped by a third since 1990, the WHO says
Los Angeles Times – 15 September 2010
Deaths of women associated with childbirth have dropped by about a third since 1990, an impressive achievement, but only half the rate of decline necessary to reach the Millennium Development Goals’ hoped-for 75% reduction by 2015, the World Health Organization said Wednesday. About 358,000 women died during childbirth in 2008, compared with 546,000 in 1990.

Fewer mothers dying in Uganda – WHO report
The New Vision – 15 September 2010
WHILE maternal health in Uganda has improved over the last 20 years with fewer mothers dying from pregnancy-related complications, the country’s maternal mortality rate remains high.
According to a report by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Unicef, the UN Population Fund and the World Bank, Uganda’s maternal mortality ratio has fallen from 670 deaths per 100,000 live births, to 430 deaths per 100,000 live births.
However, the report added that despite the progress, Uganda was not yet on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reducing maternal mortality.
Despite 59% drop, India tops maternal mortality list
The Times of India – 16 September 2010
NEW DELHI: Though India has seen a dramatic fall in maternal mortality rate (MMR) by 59% between 1990 and 2008, the country is still home to the highest number of women dying during childbirth across the world.
India, which has seen an annual decrease of MMR by 4.9% since 1990, now records 63,000 maternal deaths a year.

La mortalité maternelle en régression dans le monde
Le Monde – 15 September 2010
Le nombre de décès dus aux complications durant la grossesse et l’accouchement a chuté d’un tiers ces vingt dernières années, mais un millier de femmes en meurent encore chaque jour, a annoncé mercredi l’Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS). Le risque pour les femmes des pays pauvres de mourir en couches est trente-six fois plus élevé que pour celles des pays riches.

Asia’s maternal mortality rate declines 52 percent: Report
Thanindian News – 15 September 2010
New Delhi, Sep 15 (IANS) Asia’s maternal mortality rate declined by 52 percent in the last two decades against a 34 percent decline globally, a report released Wednesday said.
In Asia, the number of maternal deaths is estimated to have dropped from 315,000 to 139,000 between 1990-2008, the report, “Trends in Maternal Mortality” by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank.

Breastfeeding promotion working
Billings Gazette – 15 September 2010
MISSOULA — For five years, Missoula County health officials have been trying to increase the number of women who breastfeed their babies.
Now they have a study that proves the efforts have been worthwhile. In fact, the study, produced by a graduate school intern, shows breastfeeding numbers for babies born at Community Medical Center far above national averages.

Politicians must stand up against maternal mortality
Nigerian Compass – 15 September 2010
TO check maternal mortality and move towards the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), politicians must use their offices and campaign machineries to amplify the issue of reproductive health in the country.
The Chairman of Conference of Ward Development Committees for Maternal and Morbidity Reduction Project (CWDC for MMREP), Alhaji Salahuddeen Busa, made the call at the sensitisation workshop for people of Oluyole and Ibadan North local government areas of Oyo State.
WHO Report Shows Maternal Mortality Rates Will Not Meet Millennium Development Goals
MS. Magazine – 16 September 2010
The World Health Organization (WHO) announced in a report yesterday that although maternal mortality rates have decreased by 34 percent since 1990, the decline in the rate of pregnancy-related deaths is not on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal target for 2015. The report, which was published in conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the World Bank, stated a need for greater investment in health systems and care quality. Currently, there are approximately 1,000 maternal deaths per day caused by easily preventable conditions that include severe bleeding after childbirth, infections, hypertensive disorders, and unsafe abortion.

Maternal deaths drop worldwide Says WHO report
The Daily Star – 16 September 2010
United Nations estimated that although pregnancy related deaths are few among women, around 1,000 die a day due to it, according to a report here yesterday. The number of women dying due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth has decreased by 34 percent from an estimated 546,000 in 1990 to 358,000 in 2008, it said. The report titled "Trends in maternal mortality" was jointly released by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank (WB), said a message received from Geneva.

Baisse de 34% du nombre de décès maternels dans le monde
Le Parisien – 15 septembre 2010
Le nombre de décès liés à des complications de grossesse ou d'accouchement a baissé de 34% dans le monde en près de 20 ans, passant de 546.000 en 1990 à 358.000 en 2008, selon le dernier rapport publié par l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (OMS) mercredi 15 septembre. Si les progrès sont incontestables, le taux annuel de diminution reste néanmoins inférieur à celui fixé pour atteindre l'Objectif du Développement pour le Millénaire (OMD), à savoir une baisse de 5,5% par an.

Cada día mueren mil maternas
El Colombiano – 16 September 2010
El número de muertes por complicaciones durante el embarazo y el parto ha descendido un tercio en las últimas dos décadas, pero aún fallecen unas 1.000 mujeres cada día de forma innecesaria, dijo ayer la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS).
Las mujeres en los países más pobres tienen una probabilidad 36 veces mayor de morir por causas vinculadas al embarazo que las que viven en naciones ricas, dijo la OMS, anunciando que las cifras de mortalidad materna continúan muy por encima de los objetivos de Naciones Unidas.

Embracing Baby Friendly Initiative
Nigerian Observer – 20 September 2010
BABY friendly which is the act of breast feeding a baby from point of birth for not less than six months or more before feeding the baby with any other baby foods. The World Health Organisation (W.H.O) has recognized that the best baby food for a baby is the mothers breast milk. Therefore, it has spear-headed the campaign on the fact that mothers should not starve their babies of breast milk.
Global problem for kids
Fiji Times – 18 September 2010
ABOUT nine million children under the age of five die across the world each year.
The World Health Organisation estimates that 90 per cent of all child deaths are attributable to just six conditions: neonatal causes, pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, measles, and HIV/AIDS. During 1960-1990, child mortality in developing regions was halved to one child in 10 dying before age five.

Child death rate down a third since 1990: UNICEF
Reuters – 17 September 2010
(Reuters) - The number of children who die before reaching their fifth birthday has fallen by a third since 1990, the United Nations said on Friday, but the decline is still way off a globally agreed target to be met by 2015.

How to save women's lives - the lessons from Sierra Leone
The Guardian – 18 September 2010
Earlier this year, Sierra Leone took the giant step of abolishing health charges for pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children. Dr Samuel A.S. Kargbo, Director of the Reproductive and Child Health program for the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, reports on progress so far.

Youth warned against unsafe abortions
allAfrica.com – 20 September 2010
WINDHOEK – Women were advised on the ramifications of unsafe abortions in Namibia at the ‘Unsafe Abortion and Family Planning Awareness’ event held at the Polytechnic of Namibia last Wednesday.
The event was geared towards raising the awareness of the youth, as statistics in Africa indicate the age group of 14-25 years as a primary affected demographic.

Maternal deaths down: report
The Phnom Penh Post – 17 September 2010
A NEW international report provides an estimate of the Cambodian maternal mortality rate that falls far below the government’s, but still places the Kingdom off track to meet the Millennium Development Goal of reducing maternal deaths by three-quarters.
The report, which was released globally yesterday, estimates that there were 290 deaths per 100,000 live births in the Kingdom in 2008.

WHO report: Officials say India's maternal mortality has decreased
SIFY – 17 September 2010
New Delhi, Sep 17 (IANS) Health officials here point out that a WHO report - saying India has the highest number of maternal deaths - doesn't paint the correct picture and in terms of per lakh population, the maternal mortality rate (MMR) is actually much lower compared to other nations. Officials said several schemes to check maternal mortality are working well and the high number of deaths reported - 63,000 in 2008 - were due to a large population and perhaps some 'miscalculation'.
One in four youngsters 'not using contraception'
The Guardian – 20 September 2010
One in four sexually active young people in the UK fail to use any form of contraception with a new partner, a survey revealed.
The figure prompted health campaigners to call on the government to give sex and relationships education in schools a higher priority.
Personal hygiene was rated as the most important consideration, ahead of contraception, when preparing for a date that could lead to sex.
The worldwide poll was carried out by Marie Stopes International for World Contraception Day on 26 September. The UK results revealed 16% of young people who admitted to having unprotected sex said they had forgotten to use contraception with a new partner, 13% said their partner preferred not to use it and 19% said they failed to take precautions because they were drunk.

Two-Thirds Of U.S. Teens Receive Information On Birth Control, CDC Reports
Medical News Today – 17 September 2010
Although nearly all U.S. teens receive formal sex education, only about two-thirds are given information on birth control methods, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report released Wednesday, the AP/Washington Post reports. The report is based on face-to-face interviews with nearly 2,800 teenagers from 2006 through 2008. For the interviews, female researchers from the University of Michigan asked the teenagers questions in their homes.

Abortion does not further children’s health
The Washington Post – 19 September 2010
An army of health activists and world leaders will gather at the United Nations this week to review the eight Millennium Development Goals agreed to at the start of the century and to recalibrate and recommit to more effectively achieve them by 2015. The overarching and noble goal is reducing global poverty. But the most compelling and achievable objectives -- huge reductions in maternal and child mortality worldwide -- will be severely undermined if the Obama administration either directly or covertly integrates abortion into the final outcome document.

Unicef’s Idea
The New York Times – 18 September 2010
World leaders will gather at the United Nations this week to discuss what more needs to be done to meet the ambitious goals set in 2000 for reducing global poverty, hunger and disease. That discussion should include a serious look at counterintuitive and compelling new research by Unicef, the United Nations Children’s Fund.

U.N. to Ask $169 Billion Maternal Health Question
Women’s ENews – 20 September 2010
UNITED NATIONS (WOMENSENEWS)—The U.N. this week will be considering plans to save 16 million women’s lives by 2015, as part of a major meeting focused on poverty-reducing goals. The big billion dollar question is not how it can be done but whether the U.N. member states will provide enough funding.
Michel Kazatchkine : "Contre le sida, des succès majeurs sont à notre portée"
Le Monde – 17 September 2010
Quel est le but de la réunion qui se tient à New York le 20 septembre ?
C'est le sommet des Objectifs du millénaire, qui sont un ensemble de huit objectifs que le monde s'est fixés en 2000 pour 2015. Au moins trois d'entre eux sont liés à la santé. Celui qui nous concerne le plus, au Fonds mondial, est l'objectif 6, qui vise à inverser la courbe de croissance de l'épidémie du sida et des grandes maladies infectieuses.

Save children's lives - educate women
The Guardian – 17 September 2010
A new paper shows that educating girls has a direct effect on child mortality rates, estimating that the lives of 4 million children under-5 have been saved by efforts over the last four decades to get girls to school and keep them there for longer

Des spécialistes internationaux examinent les causes et les options de traitement de l'hémorragie post-partum, une des causes principales de mortalité maternelle dans le monde
TF1 News – 22 septembre 2010
14 millions de mères menacées par des hémorragies internes suite à un accouchement
Cook Medical a invité des spécialistes de la santé des femmes et de l'hémorragie post-partum d'Amérique du Nord, d'Europe, du Moyen-Orient et d'Afrique à participer à une table ronde en compagnie de la presse internationale, pour explorer les causes, les facteurs de risque et la prévalence de l'hémorragie post-partum (HPP ...)

Monde : la mortalité maternelle et néonatale recule
Viva Presse – 20 septembre 2010
Pourtant, en Afrique subsaharienne, une femme sur 22 risque de mourir pendant la grossesse ou l’accouchement, contre une femme sur 8000 dans les pays développés.

Rwanda: New Gel to Protect Women From HIV/AIDS
allAfrica.com – 20 September 2010
Kigali — Prof. Joseph Vyankandondera, the Principle Investigator on HIV incidence at Project Ubuzima, announced last Friday that Tenofovir, a new vaginal gel microbicide could be one of the key ways to curb the spread of virus among females.
Project Ubuzima, a local organization that carries out clinical research on microbicides, recently recruited women volunteers to facilitate their research on Tenofovir. The Gel was referred to as "a new advance in HIV prevention" during the International AIDS conference in Vienna recently.
Maternal deaths main block to goals
The Jakarta Post – 20 September 2010
Despite skepticism over Indonesia’s ability to achieve several targets, delegates to this week’s millennium development goals (MDGs) summit in New York are upbeat the country is on the right track.
Nila Moeloek, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s special envoy for MDGs, said over the weekend that Indonesia still lagged behind in three areas: reducing the maternal mortality rate, HIV/AIDS control and improving access to clean water.

MONDE: Les femmes, essentielles pour atteindre les OMD, mais...
IRIN News – 20 September 2010

Hillary Clinton, Ban Ki-Moon Promote Fight Against Childhood Malnutrition
Voice of America – 21 September 2010
U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other dignitaries are urging a renewed effort to reduce childhood malnutrition. They met Tuesday in New York City on the sidelines of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals summit for what was billed as a 1,000 Days forum.
Each year, 3.5 million mothers, and children under age five, die as a result of malnutrition. Millions of other children suffer chronic effects of poor early nutrition.

Global elimination of mother to child HIV transmission is now achievable, say agencies
BMJ – 21 September 2010
For the first time the elimination of transmission of HIV from mothers to their babies is considered a realistic goal, according to a presentation at a summit in New York on the United Nations’ millennium development goals.

India should improve maternal health
Central Chronicle – 21 September 2010
Human Rights Watch, a leading rights group, has said the latest UN maternal mortality estimates contradict the claim made by New Delhi that it is 'on track' in meeting goals for reducing maternal mortality ...

Pregnant women die needlessly every day
Dispatch – 22 September 2010
DEATHS from complications during pregnancy and childbirth have fallen by a third in the past two decades but 1000 women still die needlessly every day, the World Health Organisation said. Women in poorer countries are 36 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than those in the rich nations, the WHO said, announcing maternal mortality figures that remain far above the United Nations’ flagship targets.
Tanzania slashes number of maternal death
The Citizen – 21 September 2010
The women dying during delivery in the country has dropped to 400 deaths from 578 for every 100,000 women giving birth, according to the recent demographic health survey. The achievement was revealed in Dar es Salaam yesterday by the director of prevention services in the ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Dr Donan Mmbando ...

U.N. to Announce Aid for Women and Children
The New York Times – 22 September 2010
UNITED NATIONS — Secretary General Ban Ki-moon plans to end a development summit meeting of world leaders on Wednesday by announcing a huge increase in aid to improve the health of women and children, but independent specialists said they were skeptical about the amount of actual new money committed, given the global economic crisis.

Decrease on Maternal Mortality Rate Is Not An Easy Target
Kompas – 22 September 2010
Kompas, 22/09 – The target to decrease the maternal mortality rate, as the 5th MDGs, is difficult to reach for a number of reasons. Weakness on data accuracy is one problem which makes surveillance is difficult, said Kartono Mohamad, former president of Indonesian Medical Association. Culture and tradition in various parts of Indonesia is another area.

1.39 Million Under-Five Children Are Malnourished
Kompas – 23 September 2010
Kompas, 23/09 – In Indonesia 1.39 million children under five years old are suffering from malnutrition, stated Minarto, Director of Public Nutrition, MOH. Provinces with high number of cases are West and East Nusa Tenggara, North Maluku and West Sulawesi. Poverty is the major cause of this problem.

World Experts To Address The Causes And Treatment Options For Postpartum Hemorrhage, A Major Cause Of Global Maternal Death
Medical News Today – 22 September 2010
Cook Medical has invited experts in women's health and postpartum hemorrhage from North America, Europe, Middle East and Africa to participate in a roundtable discussion with the world press to explore the causes, risk factors and prevalence of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) a fatal complication of childbirth that affects approximately 14 million women annually ...

U.N. chief to launch women and children health drive
Reuters – 22 September 2010
(Reuters) - U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will announce on Wednesday a $40 billion launch to a plan to save the lives of 16 million women and children over the next five years, U.N. officials said. The drive aims to make headway on the slowest-moving sectors of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the world body 10 years ago -- maternal and child health.

Some UN MDG goals "lagging", especially maternal health: Sweden
Focus Information Agency – 22 September 2010
United Nations. Sweden on Tuesday expressed its concern that some of the eight targets of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are "lagging behind," particularly maternal health, Xinhua informed ...
**Push to put infant formula on prescription**
ABC – 23 September 2010

ELEANOR HALL: New mothers are advised that breast is best when it comes to feeding their infants. And for some who find it difficult to breast-feed it is difficult dilemma. Now a Melbourne doctor of midwifery has inflamed the emotional debate by calling for infant formula to be made available only by prescription ...

**El trauma físico afecta de forma grave a niños**
El Telegrafo – 23 September 2010

Caídas desde las bicicletas sin usar protecciones (cascos, rodilleras y coderas); resbalones desde ventanas, balcones o escaleras; caídas en piscinas por la falta de cercas, entre otros accidentes, ocasionan graves traumatismos (lesiones a los órganos o tejidos) a los menores de seis años de edad.

**China Ranks Second to Mexico in Cesarean Births**
The Epoch Times – 27 September 2010

Cesarean birth rates have climbed in China during the last 20 years. A World Health Organization report shows that between October 2007 and May 2008, 46 percent of births in China were by Cesarean section. China ranked second in the world in Cesarean births, second only to Mexico. Chinese media have attributed the causes to profit, getting the child to school one year earlier, and a new generation’s diminished tolerance to the pain of giving birth.

**A new and necessary test**
Irish Times – 24 September 2010

A NEW TEST which can accurately predict which pregnant women will develop pre-eclampsia before symptoms arise could be available within the next five years thanks to the work of a Science Foundation Ireland funded research team led by professor Louise Kenny in University College Cork.

**Nigeria leads global decline in HIV infections, maternal deaths**
The Guardian – 22 September 2010

NIGERIA is leading a global drop in Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and maternal deaths, even as new research describes how rising education levels among women save children’s lives worldwide. According to a recent report from the United Nations AIDS programme (UNAIDS), Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe have made big strides in fighting HIV/AIDS, with new infections down 25 per cent since 2001 in some of the worst hit places. The UN report said these African nations, whose populations have been devastated by AIDS, are leading the decline, thanks to better use of prevention methods and greater access to life-preserving drugs.

**Women's, children's health tops UN's global development priorities**
Xinhua – 23 September 2010

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 22 (Xinhua) -- With the official launch of a global health initiative for women and children Wednesday, what used to be of secondary importance has now become a top priority of the United Nations. The newly announced Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, "Every Woman, Every Child," aims to save the lives of over 16 million women and children around the world ...
No alimentan bien a 3 de 5 bebes
La Nacion – 27 September 2010
Una radiografía de la alimentación de los bebes durante los primeros seis meses de vida demuestra que todavía 3 de cada 5 chicos no son alimentados según las recomendaciones internacionales a las que adhiere nuestro país.

Mothers living with HIV/AIDS: Breastfeeding is still the best
The New Vision – 26 September 2010
INFANT feeding in the era of HIV/AIDS is a serious challenge to mothers living with HIV/AIDS, especially those in low-income countries.
While breastfeeding increases the risk of HIV transmission from the mother to the child, giving replacement feeds or breast milk substitutes is worse because it increases the risk of severe malnutrition, diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections.

Uganda at risk of reversing HIV/AIDS progress
CMAJ – 24 September 2010
...Once the country with the world’s highest HIV/AIDS infection rate, Uganda has been Africa’s success story in the last 10 years. By 2002, the population’s HIV rate had dropped to 6% from a high of 30% in urban areas in 1992, according to the Uganda Aids Commission. Early openness about the cause of HIV/AIDS and leadership from Uganda’s president and other national figures, public health campaigns against multiple partners, easy access to testing and, beginning in 2004, free antiretroviral drugs, contributed to beating back the disease that continues to ravage the rest of the continent.

Study: Maternal Death Rate Has Declined
The Daily Californian – 25 September 2010
In New York’s bustling Times Square, members of Amnesty International hung a clock Monday that would count to 90 seconds and then start over again. Each time the clock finished a cycle, a woman somewhere in the world had died of complications during pregnancy or childbirth, reminding passersby that maternal mortality still presents a pervasive human rights problem.

Women, children’s health forgotten in development: India
People’s Daily – 25 September 2010
The world as a whole made substantial gains in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but progress is uneven and short of expectations, most notably in the fields of gender empowerment and children’s health, Indian Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna said here on Wednesday.

La mère et l’enfant, nouvelle priorité des Nations unies
Le Monde – 23 septembre 2010
Si la communauté internationale tient cette fois-ci ses promesses, des millions de femmes des pays en développement qui mettent au monde leurs enfants dans les pires conditions - enfants qui meurent souvent avant leurs 5 ans - peuvent avoir l'espoir de recevoir les soins et l'attention qui chez nous sont devenus "une routine".
The lifesaving qualities of zinc

The Vancouver Sun – 27 September 2010
- Question: How is zinc lowering the mortality rate worldwide?
- Answer: The Micronutrient Initiative and Unicef are looking to improve global nutrition with the provision of vitamins and minerals.

The importance of zinc as a micronutrient cannot be underestimated. Studies show that zinc supplementation results in improved growth in children, lowers rates of diarrhoea, malaria, and pneumonia, and reduces child mortality.

Breastfeeding 'prevents baby infections,' research suggests

BBC News – 27 September 2010

Exclusive breastfeeding for six months wards off baby infections, further evidence suggests. Regardless of other factors, such as good healthcare and vaccination programmes, breastfeeding still gives babies a boost, say Greek researchers.

They say it is the composition of breast milk that helps babies fight infections.

Maternal and child health

Dawn.com – 27 September 2010

There are serious concerns over the management of the Rs20bn maternal, newborn and child health programme (2007-2012) that is supposed to cover approximately 110 million people countrywide.

With just five years left until the 2015 UN Millennium Development Goals’ deadline, international sponsors of the MNCH programme are pessimistic that the latter’s objectives will be achieved, especially if doubts regarding its financial transparency are not addressed.

Yemen making progress toward improving its maternal health

Yemen Times – 27 September 2010


The findings, published in a 52-page report last week, indicate that Yemen’s maternal mortality ratio - the number of deaths per 100,000 live births - decreased by 61 percent between 1990 and 2008.

Se rebasa en México porcentaje de cesáreas sugerido por la OMS

La Jornada – 27 September 2010

Aunque la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) recomienda que el porcentaje de nacimientos por cesárea sea de entre 10 y 15 por ciento, en México, hasta 2008, era de 40 por ciento, pero en instituciones privadas la cifra llega a 68 puntos porcentuales, indica el Observatorio de Política Social y Derechos Humanos.

Se rebajan las cifras de mortalidad materna mundial. la ONU acepta nuevas estadísticas

Aragon Liberal – 28 September 2010

Un nuevo informe deja de lado estadísticas defendidas ferozmente tan sólo meses atrás. En abril, un equipo de investigación independiente demostró que los líderes de la ONU inflaron durante años el número de muertes maternas, afirmando que éste ascendía a medio millón en todo el mundo.
Philippines to provide birth control despite church ban
France 24 – 27 September 2010
The Philippine government will provide contraceptives to poor couples who request it despite strong opposition from the dominant Roman Catholic church, President Benigno Aquino said Monday.
Speaking in a satellite television interview from the United States where he is on a seven-day visit, Aquino stressed that the number of children a couple had was a matter of personal choice.

More evidence that breastfeeding is good for babies
Los Angeles Times – 28 September 2010
A new study suggests that breast milk may not combat common infections of infancy unless it is the exclusive source of food for the first six months of a baby’s life.
That’s right, sleep-deprived new moms: This would mean that you might have to ditch that occasional, sanity-saving bottle of formula if you want to keep the ear infections at bay.

More countries show universal access to HIV/AIDS services possible
The New Nation – 29 September 2010
Significant progress has been made in several low- and middle-income countries in increasing access to HIV/AIDS services, according to a new report released worldwide on Tuesday.
The report Towards Universal Access by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UNAIDS is the fourth annual report for tracking progress made in achieving the 2010 target of providing universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care.

1 million HIV patients in India have no access to treatment
Hindustan Times – 28 September 2010
Over one million HIV/AIDS patients in India are without access to the much-needed anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment, a new international report said today, suggesting that India should consider issuing compulsory licensing for increasing availability of drugs.
The joint report issued by the World Health Organisation, UNAIDS, and UNICEF said India had made progress in scaling up access over the years, but said given its robust generic drug industry it could have done better.

More HIV care for pregnant women in poor countries
The Boston Globe – 28 September 2010
Just over half of HIV-infected pregnant women in poor countries received crucial AIDS drugs to protect their unborn children last year, the World Health Organization reported Tuesday — one of a list of improvements in the global fight against HIV.
Fifteen percent of infected pregnant women had access to that therapy five years ago, an important jump in the quest to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission by 2015.

More HIV care for pregnant women in poor countries
Independent Mail – 28 September 2010
Just over half of HIV-infected pregnant women in poor countries received crucial AIDS drugs to protect their unborn children last year, the World Health Organization reported Tuesday — one of a list of improvements in the global fight against HIV.
Fifteen percent of infected pregnant women had access to that therapy five years ago, an important jump in the quest to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission by 2015.
IPS – 28 September 2010
NAIROBI, Sep 28, 2010 (IPS) - The number of pregnant women being tested for HIV and accessing treatment in Sub-Saharan Africa has shown significant progress – indicating that virtual elimination of mother-to-child transmission of the virus by 2015 is possible.
According to a new report Towards Universal Access, the proportion of pregnant women in Sub-Saharan Africa who received an HIV test increased from 43 percent in 2008 to 51 percent in 2009. The report by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS assessed HIV/AIDS progress in 144 low- and middle-income countries.

CTV – 28 September 2010
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Fifteen per cent of infected pregnant women had access to that therapy five years ago, an important jump in the quest to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission by 2015.

El Comercio – 28 September 2010
Al culminar el periodo de gestación, las mujeres pueden quedar con algunos kilos de más. La lactancia es una buena manera de reducir las grasas, pues el organismo las utiliza en la producción de la leche materna.

Medical News Today (press release) – 20 September 2010
World Vision's Child Health Now campaign, drawing upon lessons learned from the Christian humanitarian organization's 1600+ community programs, ...

MiamiHerald.com – 26 September 2010
``We are so excited to invite the entire community and our civic leaders to celebrate with us as we provide maternal-child health and education services to ..."
Care commits $1.8b for countries, including India
mydigitalfc.com – 26 September 2010
Our commitment is to scale up and to expand our work in maternal and child health," Care USA President and CEO Helene D Gayle said in a statement ...

AFGHANISTAN: Limited progress on maternal health
IRIN Asia News – 28 September 2010
Almost a decade of donor funded health projects has resulted in a marginal reduction in maternal and child mortality, according to new estimates set out in a UN report on maternal health. Maternal deaths have fallen from 1,600 per 100,000 live births in 2001 to 1,400 in 2010, still the second highest in the world. The infant mortality rate dropped from 165 per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 111 in 2008, while the under-five mortality rate fell from 257 to 165 per 1,000, according to the report Trends in Maternal Mortality 1990-2008.

International AIDS Society emphasizes universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care as a prerequisite for improving maternal and child health
Eurekalert – 28 September 2010
At the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) summit in New York this week, world leaders gathered to review progress on the eight goals agreed in 2000 on alleviating world poverty and ill-health by 2015. As the summit came to a close, governments, businesses and aid organisations made commitments totaling $40bn to reach the goals, with particular emphasis on improving maternal and child health. A global strategy for women's and children's health, focused on reducing maternal and child deaths, empowering women and achieving equality, was announced by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon at the end of the summit.

Assam joins global health goals - Model project launched to reduce child, maternal mortality ...
The Telegraph – 28 September 2010
Assam today joined the global effort to achieve the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 with chief minister Tarun Gogoi launching the Morigaon Model Health Project here this afternoon. The model project aims to reduce child mortality rates and improve maternal health in Morigaon by 2015.

Santé de reproduction: où sont passés les contraceptifs ?
Africatime – 28 September 2010
La planification familiale est dans un cul-de-sac. Parce que les contraceptifs sont rares et globalement hors de prix sur le marché, les femmes peinent à contrôler le rythme de leurs accouchements. Les cas de grossesses non désirées battent des records. Dans de nombreuses villes et villages du pays, le nombre de décès consécutifs aux avortements est en nette augmentation. Mutations sonne l'alerte. Afin que stoppe l'autodestruction des Camerounais...

SMS study to help breastfeeding mums
The Sydney Morning Herald – 30 September 2010
A new SMS service aims to increase breastfeeding rates among new mums. The world-first SMS study trial, led by Queensland University of Technology (QUT), will provide support for mums who need encouragement breastfeeding ...
Crearán nuevos “hospitales amigos de la madre y el niño”
La Gaceta – 29 September 2010
El objetivo es reducir la mortalidad infantil.
Un hospital “amigo de la madre y el niño” es aquel donde se decidió invertir tiempo y esfuerzo para adecuar sus prácticas a la promoción y atención de la lactancia materna y al trato atento y respetuoso de la embarazada y su bebé. En la Argentina existen 60 centros asistenciales con estas características en 17 jurisdicciones, aunque atienden sólo el 32% de los partos del sector público.

2.6L HIV patients have no access to treatment
The Times of India – 30 September 2010
Around 3.2 lakh HIV patients in India were on life-saving anti-retroviral therapy (ART) in December 2009 — more than 85,000 patients from the previous year. Be that as it may, 2.6 lakh people are still in dire need of ART.
According to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) latest report, "Towards Universal Access", which tracks progress in achieving the 2010 target for HIV prevention, treatment and care; around 5.8 lakh HIV patients required ART in end-2009.

IAS stresses universal access to HIV services for improving maternal and child ... 
Pediatric SuperSite – 29 September 2010
“World leaders have recognized that maternal and child health is a prerequisite for achieving all other millennium development goals,” said Mats Ahnlund, ...

More investment needed to end maternal deaths - experts
Daily Monitor – 30 September 2010
Health experts say if unmet need for contraceptives were satisfied, maternal mortality would drop by 40 per cent. But only 41 per cent of women in Uganda ...

Miner to host infant mortality conference Thursday
Southeast Missourian – 30 September 2010
Also on Thursday, MBRC will launch the Southeast Missouri Maternal Child and Family Health Coalition. The MCFHC will be a collaborative with local and ...

Maternal Diet High in Trans Fat Doubles Risk of Excess Body Fat in Breastfed ...
HealthNewsDigest.com – 29 September 2010
A better understanding of how a mother's consumption of trans fats may impact the health of her baby would aid nutritionists in making more accurate dietary ...

Mission: Improving maternal and child health in Sarangani
Philippine Star – 28 September 2010
Three UN agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO) formulated an AusAID-funded program on maternal and neonatal health, in close collaboration with the national ...

Few answers to high rate of C-sections in New Jersey
Vineland Daily Journal – 27 September 2010
Dr. Charles Denk, research scientist with the Maternal & Child Health Unit in the Epidemiology Program of the state Department of Health and Senior Services ...

UNFPA faces funding gap of $17m
The funds received are being used for life-saving comprehensive maternal, neonatal and child health care. They will also be used to prevent and respond to ...

**Not Screening For Diabetes During Pregnancy Is Dangerous And Costly**
Modern Ghana – 27 September 2010
Yet, diabetes as a maternal health issue is largely unaddressed in developing countries like India. Gender inequality places a higher burden of social and ...

**In-country OB/GYN training programs contribute to retention of doctors**
U-M Health System News – 29 September 2010
These in-country programs enhance the long-term effort to increase the number of health workers globally and reduce maternal mortality. ...

**Changing perceptions to save newborns' lives**
Globe and Mail - Joanna Slater - 22 September 2010
Gradually their focus turned to preventing newborn deaths – an issue that would later come to be known, in UN-speak, as Millennium Development Goal 4. ...

**Reducing Maternal Deaths Is Top Goal of UN Summit**
AOL News – 21 September 2010
NEW YORK (Sept. 20) -- Ticktock, ticktock ... an inexorable beat began at 9 this morning in the heart of Times Square, a grim reminder of the hundreds of ...

**On a Clock, a Grim Toll of Mothers**
New York Times – Clyde Haberman – 20 September 2010
The death clock, a creation of Amnesty International, will be in place for three days, to coincide with a gathering across town. World leaders are getting ...

**Ban Ki-moon tells world leaders to honour poverty pledges**
The Guardian – 21 September 2010
... is to take steps to reduce maternal mortality during childbirth and Amnesty International on Monday activated a "maternal death clock" in Times Square. ...

**ECOWAS Governments petitioned on MDGs**
Ghana News Agency – 19 September 2010
It also expressed worry at the low progress being made in the areas of maternal and child health, gender equality and sanitation in most countries in the ...

**Anti-poverty summit a chance for Harper to rally countries to step up**
Globe and Mail – 20 September 2010
They applaud the fact that Canada has “demonstrated moral and financial leadership” on maternal and child health with the Muskoka Initiative announced this ...

**Progress, But Less Promise for Development Goals**
NewsHour – 20 September 2010
McArthur said to expect "major announcements" this week around the maternal and child health goals. The last decade has seen a huge global effort to combat ...

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, Secretariat hosted by the World Health Organization
Room V103, 20 avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland,  tel: +41 22 791 2595  fax: +41 22 791 5854
www.pmnch.org
Harper to pledge money for AIDS, malaria, TB
CBC.ca – 20 September 2010
... Millennium Development Goals to draw a connection to the $1.1-billion maternal and child health pledges Canada made at the G8 summit in Muskoka in June.

Harper tells UN to focus on child, maternal health
CTV.ca – 21 September 2010
During his speech, Harper hailed the adoption of the Muskoka Initiative for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health at last spring's G8 Summit north of Toronto.
World Vision Urges Action On Child And Maternal Health At MDG Summit
Voxy – 20 September 2010
... five years left to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) World Vision is calling for concrete action to improve \textit{maternal and child health}. ...

Sarah Brown: maternal health gap 'one of the greatest injustices'
The Guardian – 19 September 2010
The summit in \textbf{New York}, which starts tomorrow, will seek to agree on a plan to close the gap on the eight targets which the G8 agreed to meet by 2015. ...

Rights group accuses India over maternal health
AFP – 21 September 2010
World leaders are in \textbf{New York} to look for fresh ways to meet the targets, which are badly behind schedule. More women -- about 100000 -- die during ...

Nepal receives MDG Award for improving maternal health
Nepalnews.com – 19 September 2010
Nepal's permanent representative to the UN, Gyan Chandra Acharya, received the award on behalf of the government at a function in \textbf{New York}, Sunday. ...

UN official urges increased state funding for reproductive health
Xinhua - Xiong Tong – 21 September 2010
... UNFPA's Executive Director at a function on the sidelines of the Millennium Development Goals summit at the UN Headquarters in \textbf{New York}. ...

Child vaccines 'best value for money in aid'
The Guardian – 21 September 2010
Bob Orr, the UN assistant secretary general, told the Guardian before the summit that the plan would accelerate progress towards MDG4 on \textit{maternal health} ...

Summits show stark difference between UN initiatives and private aid
The Toronto Star – 20 September 2010
In spite of worldwide attention, each year 8 million children under five still die from largely preventable causes -- a decline from 12.5 million a decade ago, but not a large enough improvement to meet the goal . . .