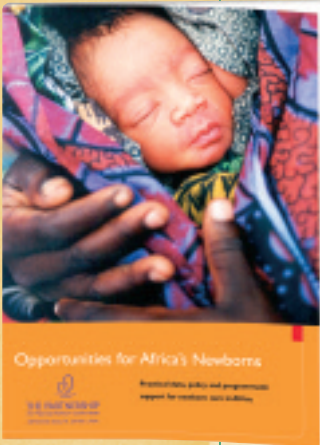


# Opportunities for Africa's Newborns



Each year in Africa at least a quarter of a million women die during pregnancy. 1.16 million babies die in their first month of life. A further 3.3 million children die before their fifth birthday. But two thirds of mothers, newborns and children could be saved with essential care. There is the potential to save 800,000 African newborn lives.

## Where? When? Why?

We have opportunities to act now.

*Opportunities for Africa's Newborns* represents a major milestone in the effort to save four million babies who die from preventable and treatable causes every year worldwide.

This publication helps to bridge the gap between policy and action. Newborn health is a crucial link in the continuum of care — systematic attention to strengthening and scaling up newborn care within national plans and programmes will pay off in strengthening services.

Now reaching every woman, baby and child in Africa with essential care will depend on us, the users of this publication. We all have a role to play.

**Dr. Francisco Songane**  
Director, Partnership for Maternal,  
Newborn & Child Health

**Professor E. Oluwole Akande**  
Chair, African Regional Maternal, Newborn  
and Child Health (MNCH) Task Force

**Hon. Amb. Dr. Gertrude I. Mongella**  
President, Pan African Parliament,  
African Union

# Opportunities for Africa's Newborns

## Why was the book written?

Each year at least 1.16 million newborn babies die in sub-Saharan Africa — until recently uncounted. This region has the highest risk of newborn deaths and the slowest progress in reducing mortality. Millennium Development Goals for child survival cannot be met without reducing newborn deaths. More than two thirds of these babies could be saved with low cost, low tech interventions, most of which are already in policy but do not reach the poor. Countries are finding that addressing newborn health is a catalyst to strengthening existing maternal and child health packages and more effective integration with other programmes. This publication has grown out of a wide partnership to seize this opportunity and promote investment in Africa's future.

## Who is the book for?

All those who are committed to accelerating progress to save the lives of mothers, newborns, and children, particularly in Africa — policymakers and programme managers as well as UN agencies, partners and donors.

## What does the book provide?

- New information on Africa's newborns — Where, when and why do they die? How many lives could be saved?
- An overview of the continuum of care through the lifecycle, highlighting gaps in coverage and opportunities to address these gaps at all levels — family and community care, outreach services and health care facilities.
- The current situation, opportunities, and next steps needed to strengthen and integrate newborn health within nine key packages and programmes related to newborn health: health of girls and women before pregnancy, antenatal care, childbirth care, postnatal care, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), nutrition and breastfeeding promotion, malaria control programmes, programmes for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and immunisation programmes.
- Reaching every mother and baby in Africa with essential care — policy frameworks are now in place, but the gap remains between policy and action, especially for the poorest. What can we learn from countries who are progressing? Case studies and practical steps for phasing interventions, strengthening and integrating service provision to provide newborn care.

## What is on the CD?

Relevant planning and programme resources, clinical guidelines and training materials, plus more data and PowerPoint presentations for adaptation for each country.

## Who is the book written by?

Under the umbrella of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), 9 organisations have been involved. 60 authors and over 40 reviewers drawn from policymakers and programme leaders for MNCH in Africa have contributed.

## Where can you get the book?

The book will be available to download and order from the PMNCH website ([www.pmnch.org](http://www.pmnch.org)). A French translation will be available in 2007.

