



The role of health workers in preventing child mortality

Afrah Nasser, Journalist Fellow of the Yemen Observer, speaks from Save the Children's Ben Philips about the lack of health workers in developing countries, and its impact on child health. The interview was held at the Second Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, in Bangkok.

According to Save the Children's latest statistics related to child mortality, 8 million children will die this year because there is a lack of quality health workers.

Around 99% of these children are from developing countries, and without access to simple health services.

Death causes are easily preventable diseases like diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria and other diseases. Figures also show that generally around the world, children will die by the age of five years and in Yemen they before they are a year old.

Ben Philips, Asia strategy director for Save the Children, revealed the magnitude of the issues during the Second Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, in Bangkok.

He blamed a lack of improvements in policy-making and a shortage of quality health workers.

"In order to reach the UN Millennium Development Goal 4 and reduce child mortality, more attention must be given to policy making and providing quality health workers," he said.

MDG 4 aims to reduce child mortality and calls for a two-thirds reduction in the mortality rate among children under five between 1990 and 2015.