



MDG 4: reduce child mortality

Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

7.6 million children under five died in 2010. Almost 90% 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. The aim is to further cut child mortality by two thirds by 2015 from the 1990 level.



Reaching the MDG on reducing child mortality will require universal coverage with key effective, affordable interventions: care for newborns and their mothers; infant and young child feeding; vaccines; prevention and case management of pneumonia, diarrhoea and sepsis; malaria control; and prevention and care of HIV/AIDS. In countries with high mortality, these interventions could reduce the number of deaths by more than half.

WHO strategies

To deliver these interventions, WHO promotes four main strategies:

- appropriate home care and timely treatment of complications for newborns;
- integrated management of childhood illness for all children under five years old;
- expanded programme on immunization;
- infant and young child feeding.

These child health strategies are complemented by interventions for maternal health, in particular, skilled care during pregnancy and childbirth.

Related links

[Child health](#)
[Infant, Newborn](#)
[Immunization](#)
[Children's environmental health](#)
[Breastfeeding](#)
[Nutrition](#)
[Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health](#)

Events

[Family Planning Summit](#)
 11 July 2012

[The XIXth International AIDS Conference](#)
 22–27 July 2012

[World Hepatitis Day](#)
 28 July 2012

[Full events calendar](#)

Corporate resources

[The world health report](#)
 Report on global public health and key statistics

[World health statistics report](#)
 WHO's annual compilation of data from its Member States

[International travel and health](#)
 Publication on travel risks, precautions and vaccination requirements

[International Health Regulations \(IHR\)](#)
 Global rules to enhance national, regional and global public health security