

## The Millennium Development Goals

Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aim to meet the needs of the world's poorest, and form a blueprint agreed to by all countries and leading development institutions

### MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

Every year an estimated four million babies die before they reach the age of one month; 98% of these deaths take place in developing countries.

MDG 4 aims to improve child survival. Its target is to reduce mortality in children under five by two thirds

### MDG 5: Improve maternal health

Every minute a woman dies from complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

MDG5 aims to improve maternal survival. Its target is to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three-quarters

## An integrated approach to the MDGs

We believe that the most effective way to achieve these MDGs is to approach them together: integrating different perspectives and understandings, from maternal to neonatal health, health services to community, research to policy and national to sub-national levels.



## Towards 4+5 Research Programme Consortium

Strategic research to inform policy  
on maternal and newborn care



For more information please contact

Guler Eroglu  
Institute of Child Health  
30 Guilford Street  
London WC1N 1EH  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7905 2261  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7404 2062  
Email: [g.eroglu@ich.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:g.eroglu@ich.ucl.ac.uk)



Towards 4+5 is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for the benefit of developing countries. The views expressed are not necessarily those of DFID.

[www.towards4and5.org.uk](http://www.towards4and5.org.uk)



## About Towards 4+5

**Towards 4+5** is a five year Research Programme Consortium on maternal and newborn health funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK.

Our goal is to support evidence based policy and practice for maternal and newborn health to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5.

We hope to achieve this goal by

- Working with partners to generate evidence on interventions to improve the survival of women and infants.
- Increasing capacity in partner countries for knowledge generation and policy influence.
- Communicating our findings effectively so as to influence policy and management decision-making on large-scale programmes.



## Key research themes

Our research is concentrated in five developing countries. These are Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi and Nepal. It focuses on ways to improve mother and infant care at both the facility and community levels.

### Health services and audit

In Burkina Faso and other west African countries, we research the effectiveness of obstetric audits on improving the provision of services and reducing perinatal mortality. Our work also includes an evaluation of quality of care improvement in Malawi.

### Community based interventions

Our research in Bangladesh and Malawi looks at the effects of mobilising women's groups on newborn and maternal mortality. In Ghana we are looking at the impacts of antenatal home visits by community health workers on newborn mortality.

### Cross cutting advocacy and policy issues

In all countries we are examining the use of evidence based policymaking in maternal and neonatal health. We are also looking at the challenges that policy makers, donors and planners face in supporting the development and expansion of maternal, newborn and child health services.

### Financial and economic issues

We document the cost-effectiveness of all the interventions that we test. In Burkina Faso and Bangladesh, we document the impact of obstetric complications on the well-being of women and their families.

## Our partners

The consortium is directed by Professor Anthony Costello at the Institute of Child Health and Dr Veronique Filippi at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The consortium comprises of a number of organisations worldwide. These are:

- Institute of Child Health (ICH), University College London, UK
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), UK
- International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (ICDDR,B), Bangladesh
- Perinatal Care Project (PCP), Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS) (formerly DAB)
- Grefsad, Burkina Faso (formerly Centre Muraz)
- Kintampo Health Research Centre (KHRC), Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Services
- Maimwana project, Lilongwe Central Hospital, Malawi
- Mother and Infant Research Activities (MIRA), Nepal
- Staff affiliated to: The Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery, Kings College London, UK; National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford, UK; Aga Khan University, Pakistan.