



# Advocacy Newsletter

## Key Milestones in 2008

### March 2008: WCF Reception on Maternal & Child Mortality Attended by Sarah Brown, Wife of Prime Minister

Sarah Brown, wife of the UK Prime Minister, has lent her support to the Millennium Development Goal of reducing maternal mortality by 2015.

Speaking at an evening reception for Women and Children First, Sarah Brown said: "What always surprises me is how few people are aware of the scale of the maternity mortality around the world. Maternal mortality must not be the forgotten target in the Millennium Development Goals. It needs to be addressed in the same way as other major health problems, such as malaria, and should have its own global plan of action."

### April 2008: Countdown to 2015 Conference

On April 19, new measurement tools, firmer costing figures and hopes of major donor action for the G8 meeting this July wrapped up the Countdown to 2015 conference on accelerating progress toward better health for mothers, newborns and children worldwide.

The statement called for an additional US\$10.2 billion investment per year to ensure universal provision of proven, effective health interventions in the 68 countries where 97 percent of maternal

and newborn deaths occur. The necessary services include reproductive health care, skilled attendance during childbirth and access to emergency care for mothers and newborns with complications, as well as a range of interventions for preventing and treating childhood illnesses. [http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/executivesummary\\_finalrev.pdf](http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/executivesummary_finalrev.pdf)

### June 2008: DFID Launches Maternal Health Strategy Progress Report

DFID's Maternal Health Strategy Progress Report includes four priority policy areas:

- health systems strengthening – with greater focus on demonstrating progress on maternal health;
- targeting investments in interventions with a high impact;
- high level international advocacy through UN, G8 and EU; and
- support for civil society advocacy in DFID's focus countries

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/health.asp>

### July 2008: G8 Meeting

In July 2008, the heads of state of the Group of Eight (G-8) major industrialized countries



Health Visitor Rebeka Sultana in Helal Uddin Khan Dangi, Bangladesh

Photograph: Sam Strickland/Women and Children First

focused on maternal health for the first time. The final G-8 communiqué admitted that progress toward achieving MDGs 4 and 5 is seriously off track and acknowledged that the continuum of prevention and care should include a greater focus on maternal, newborn, and child health

“...disappointingly, the Framework falls short of announcing any new resources for maternal, newborn, and child survival, even though it recognises that domestic and international resources are urgently needed. This omission damagingly undermines the intention of the G8 to prevent the deaths of over 10 million women and children every year—all for a mere additional US\$10.2 billion a year.” The Lancet, commenting on the G8 final communiqué.

The UN Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health had co-ordinated a Global Call for this additional US \$10.2 billion a year: [http://www.who.int/pmnch/activities/g8globalcall\\_pr\\_8July.pdf](http://www.who.int/pmnch/activities/g8globalcall_pr_8July.pdf)

## September 2008: High Level Event on the MDGs

Countries, civil society organizations, foundations and private sector initiatives list various country level commitments to the MDGs.

The United Kingdom has committed to spend an estimated £450 million over the next three years to support national health plans for 8 IHP countries (Ethiopia, Mozambique,

Kenya, Zambia, Burundi, Nigeria, Cambodia and Nepal). Prime Minister Gordon Brown also announced a Taskforce on Innovative Financing for Health Systems to help save 10 million mothers and newborns. It will help to provide over 1 million new health workers and ensure 400m extra births take place in a good quality facility. This Taskforce will report to the Italian G8 Summit in 2009.

<http://www.womendeliver.org/press/OutcomeDoc.pdf>

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2008highlevel/pdf/commitments/Commitments%20compilation%20ENGLISH.pdf>

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page16971>

## September 2008: Report on the First Year of the Global Campaign for the Health MDGs

The Report acknowledges achievements in AIDS treatment and the reduction of deaths due to malaria and measles. But, the Report also urges the international community to take action to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals to reduce maternal and child deaths by 2015. According to the report, an extra \$2.4 billion in 2009 rising to \$7 billion in 2015 will be needed to save 3 million mothers and 7 million newborns. This money will support stronger health systems, and the additional costs needed to ensure 400 million additional births take place in high-quality clinics. If delivered it will represent a 70% reduction in the death rate for mothers and babies and would ensure

the achievement of both MDGs 4 and 5 for the majority of the poorest countries.

Responding to this need, Heads of Government and Health Agencies committed to mobilise international support for stronger health systems, including the training and recruitment of over 1 million health workers. They also launched a Taskforce for Innovative International Finance for Health Systems to find new ways to fund their programme plans. <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/smk/Press-Center/Press-releases/2008/world-leaders-launch-a-plan-for-saving-1.html?id=528022>

A link to full report pdf can be found on this page: <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/smk/Press-Center/Press-releases/2008/world-leaders-launch-a-plan-for-saving-1.html?id=528022>

## November 2008: Obama Victory

Obama administration is to focus on promoting prevention, family-planning services, and strengthening public health. “Obama is committed to looking at all this and changing the policies so that family-planning services – both in the US and the developing world – reflect what works, what helps prevent unintended pregnancy, reduce maternal and infant mortality, prevent the spread of disease,”

Susan F. Wood, co-chairman of Obama’s advisory committee for women’s health

## December 2008: Doha UN Financing for Development Conference

At the end of the UN Financing for Development conference, Action for Global Health expressed great disappointment that the conference has only agreed small changes to the technicalities of finance sources, rather than committing major financing needed for development priorities. [http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/no\\_cure\\_for\\_unhealthy\\_world\\_in\\_doha](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/no_cure_for_unhealthy_world_in_doha)

The European Network on Debt and Development has analysed the Doha outcome document; their report can be accessed here: <http://www.eurodad.org/whatsnew/articles.aspx?id=3218>



Village Chief, Malawi

# Important events for advancing MDGs 4 and 5 in 2009/2010

## February 2009

**4-5:** IHP+ Ministerial Review Geneva, Switzerland - Consultation on Taskforce with Ministers from Developing Countries  
<http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/index.html>

**13:** G8 Health Experts Meeting  
[http://www.project-ring.jp/g8\\_resource-book/en\\_03-6.html#chapt\\_04](http://www.project-ring.jp/g8_resource-book/en_03-6.html#chapt_04)

## March 2009

**2-13:** Commission on the Status of Women; 53<sup>rd</sup> session; priority theme: "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS"  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm>

**8:** International Women's Day  
[http://www.countmeincalendar.info/show\\_campaign.php?calid=7&campaignid=791&categoryid=99&banner\\_area=3&camp\\_dates=08%20Mar%202009](http://www.countmeincalendar.info/show_campaign.php?calid=7&campaignid=791&categoryid=99&banner_area=3&camp_dates=08%20Mar%202009)

**13:** Comic Relief Red Nose day  
<http://www.rednoseday.com>

**22:** Mother's Day (UK)

**30 March – 3 April:** New York Commission on Population and Development; theme: "The contribution of the Programme of Action to the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs"  
<http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2009/comm2009.htm>

## April 2009

**1-3:** G20 meeting  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/second-g20-summit-planned-for-london-1020764.html>

**7:** World Health Day  
[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

**20-21:** African First Ladies Health Summit  
<http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org/Activities.cfm?a0=events&e0=85>

**25-26:** World Bank/IMF meeting, Washington DC  
<http://www.imf.org/external/am/index.htm>

**25:** World Malaria Day  
<http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/worldmaliariday>

**26 April – 2 May:** Save the Children week  
[http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/48\\_5701.htm](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/48_5701.htm)

**27 April – 1 May:** Istanbul 12th World Congress on Public Health: Making a Difference in Global Public Health: Education, Research and Practice  
<http://wfpha.confex.com/wfpha/2009/cfp.cgi>

## May 2009

**5:** International Day of the Midwife  
<http://www.rcm.org.uk/international/international-day-of-the-midwife>

**6:** From Pledges to Progress: UK Advocates Working Together to Advance MDGs 4&5  
<http://www.wcf-uk.org>

Launch of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Reproductive Health and Development Hearings Report on Maternal Morbidity  
<http://www.appg-popdevrh.org.uk>

**18-27:** World Health Assembly  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/governance/wha/en>

Launch at World Health Assembly of Amnesty International Campaign on Poverty and Human Rights  
[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

**26-30:** Washington Global Health Council conference: New Technologies + Proven Strategies = Healthy Communities  
[http://www.globalhealth.org/conference\\_2009/view\\_top.php?id=869](http://www.globalhealth.org/conference_2009/view_top.php?id=869)

## July 2009

**6-9:** Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review on Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health  
<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amr2009.shtml>

**8-10:** G8 Summit, Italy  
<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2009italy/2009plans/2009-g8plans-081006.pdf>

**11:** World Population Day  
[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)

**19-22:** Cape Town International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, treatment and prevention  
<http://www.ias2009.org>

## September 2009

**2-4:** Berlin Global NGO Forum on ICPD at 15  
<http://www.ngosforcipdat15.org>

(One year away from the UN MDG Review Summit in 2010)

## October 2009

**4-9:** Cape Town International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) Congress  
<http://www.figo2009.org.za>

**6-10:** Verona 6th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health  
<http://www.festmih.org/verona2009>

**10:** World Sight Day – focus on women's health  
<http://www.v2020.org/page.asp?section=000100010007>  
[http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world\\_sight\\_day/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world_sight_day/en/index.html)

**17:** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlDay/index.html>

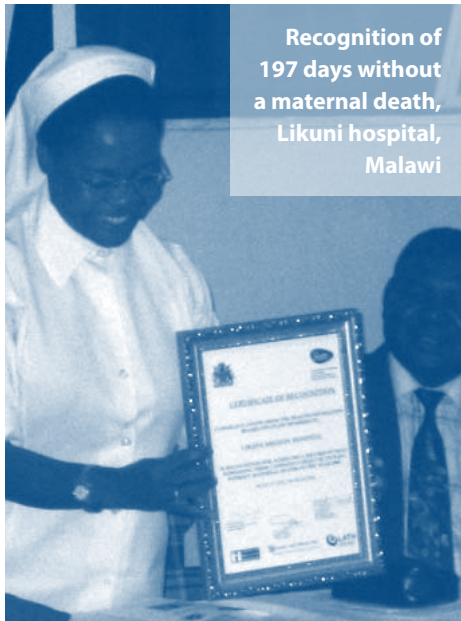
**26:** MDG Ministerial Event in Cairo  
[www.ippf.org](http://www.ippf.org)

## November 2009

**16-20 Nov:** Havana Global Forum for Health Research: innovating for the health of all  
[http://www.globalforumhealth.org/Site/004\\_\\_Annual%20meeting/000\\_\\_Forum%202009.php](http://www.globalforumhealth.org/Site/004__Annual%20meeting/000__Forum%202009.php)

Launch of World Vision Health Campaign  
<http://www.worldvision.org.uk>

# UK Advocacy Corner



Recognition of  
197 days without  
a maternal death,  
Likuni hospital,  
Malawi

## From Pledges to Progress: UK Advocates Working Together to Advance MDGs 4&5

6 May 2009, London

This meeting is for UK advocates working on MDGs 4&5. It will provide the chance for an annual update on progress and developments in the field as well as networking and improved collaboration on advocacy approaches. The session will start with a keynote presentation to provide updated information about MNCH progress within the development and human rights context, followed by a moderated plenary session featuring health professionals highlighting the need to massively scale up the provision of health workers to ensure improved MNCH.

Photograph: Women and Children First

### Key Web-based Resources

#### WCF MDGs 4 and 5 Toolkit

[http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/media/home/united\\_kingdom/resources/health\\_mdgs](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/media/home/united_kingdom/resources/health_mdgs)

MDGs 4 + 5: Reduce child mortality and improve maternal health

<http://www.wcf-uk.org/northsouth/extra3.nsf/WebResources?OpenView&Count=25>

Guide to major initiatives and players working towards Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5  
Key Advocacy Message Cards on Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5

Mapping UK Advocacy for Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5

Workshop Notes - 6th March 2008 - Harnessing UK Expertise in Maternal, Newborn and Child Health to achieve

<http://www.who.int/pmnch/en>

(UN Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health)

<http://www.unicef.org/sowc09>

(UNICEF State of the World's Children 2009 – Maternal and Newborn Health)

<http://www.countdown2015mnch.org>

(Countdown to 2015: Tracking progress in Maternal, Newborn and Child Health)

<http://www.womendeliver.org/index.htm> (Women Deliver)

### Websites to watch in 2009

[www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/media/home/united\\_kingdom](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/media/home/united_kingdom)

[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

[www.commat.org](http://www.commat.org)

[www.interactworldwide.org](http://www.interactworldwide.org)

[www.ippf.org](http://www.ippf.org)

[www.maternityworldwide.org](http://www.maternityworldwide.org)

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

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

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

[www.wcf-uk.org](http://www.wcf-uk.org)

[www.whiteribbonalliance.org](http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org)

[www.wordvision.org](http://www.wordvision.org)

[www.wvi.org](http://www.wvi.org)



Nurses in Likuni  
hospital, Malawi

Women and Children First (UK)

[www.wcf-uk.org](http://www.wcf-uk.org)

Email: [info@wcf-uk.org](mailto:info@wcf-uk.org)

Registered charity number: 1085096

Research carried out by Karen Newman

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