



# making pregnancy safer



- Global action for
- skilled attendants for
- pregnant women



Department of Reproductive Health and Research  
Family and Community Health  
World Health Organization, Geneva



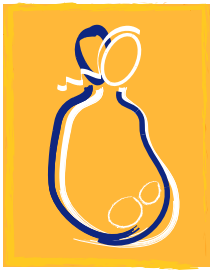
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# **Global Action for Skilled Attendants for Pregnant Women**

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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<b>ACNM</b>	American College of Nurse-Midwives
<b>ANC</b>	Antenatal care
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
<b>EURO</b>	WHO Regional Office for Europe
<b>FIGO</b>	International Federation of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians
<b>HIV</b>	Human immunodeficiency virus
<b>HRP</b>	UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction
<b>ICM</b>	International Confederation of Midwives
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goal
<b>MPR</b>	Making Pregnancy Safer initiative
<b>MTCT</b>	Mother-to-child transmission
<b>NGO</b>	Nongovernmental organization
<b>RHL</b>	WHO's Reproductive Health Library
<b>SEARO</b>	WHO Regional Office for South-east Asia
<b>TBA</b>	Traditional birth attendant
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



## Introduction

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In December 2000, 149 Heads of State or Government and 189 Member States jointly endorsed the Millennium Declaration which committed signatories to achieving, by 2015, ambitious goals in poverty reduction, alleviation of hunger, control of disease, achievement of universal education and reversing environmental degradation. These goals are known collectively as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDG process is designed to enhance accountability and to stimulate quantitative and qualitative changes in the way countries and development partners monitor improvements. The MDGs will serve as the framework for reporting on progress in development for the next 15 years, with achievements measured in terms of a 1990 baseline and a 2015 target. This framework aims to bring all development partners together around a common, unified agenda that is focused on poverty alleviation.

The reduction of maternal mortality is one of the key goals of the Millennium Declaration. In addition, the goal on the reduction of under-five mortality will require greater attention to the needs of the newborn if it is to be realized. Thus, attention to both maternal and newborn health is central to the attainment of the MDGs.

In the MDG framework, two indicators are proposed for monitoring progress towards the maternal health goal namely, the maternal mortality ratio and the proportion of deliveries with a skilled health care provider. The need for access to skilled health care for pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period has been central to WHO's Making Pregnancy Safer initiative. However, two years of efforts in the Making Pregnancy Safer initiative, together with the experiences of partners working in safe motherhood, have shown that countries have yet to integrate increasing access to skilled care for pregnant women into their national health and development plans. Concerns have been expressed that the strategies required are complex and too difficult to implement because of human resource constraints.

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