

# Maternal Health: We need to continue our efforts to save pregnant women

"World has to congratulate itself for reducing maternal mortality of 543,000 in the 1990 to 287,000 in 2010. However we will not achieve the 75% reduction which was the goal by 2015. Hence we could continue the efforts and we can achieve the desired goal in a few more years"

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**The world leaders** took a bold step at the turn of the century and identified eight millennium development goals. The goals were well defined and it was to make the world a better place to live and to improve the lives of everyone. Goal 1 was to eradicate poverty; Goal 2 was for provision of universal education; goal 3 for gender equality; goal 4 is reduction of child mortality; goal 5 is reduction of ma-

red goal in a few further years. Success in reduction has been in poor countries and large sums of money were not needed to achieve this. Analysis of the countries that has achieved success suggests that we need to adopt five principles. 1. Maternal health must be made as National priority by build-

ing coalitions between likeminded organisations and the government. 2. Countries should focus on few targeted initiatives. 3. People at the grass root level should be inspired and they should be empowered and supported to invent solutions that are acceptable and appropriate for them. 4. Innovative processes should be the key to bring about the desired change with limited man power, supplies and infrastructure. This should be by public private partnership, charities or voluntary organisations. Innovation also could be task shifting or task sharing like the surgical assistants to do caesarean sections in Mozambique. 5. Measurement of process and outcome indicators to make the organisations

and people accountable to themselves and to keep on improving on their performance. Recognition and rewarding success enhances better performance. Various countries have adapted strategies to overcome barriers in



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ternal mortality and goal 6 was reduction of deaths from Malaria TB and HIV/AIDS. These goals are interlinked. Poverty, lack of education and gender equality contributes goals 4, 5 and 6. If maternal mortality is reduced it will help to improve the others. World has to congratulate itself for reducing maternal mortality of 543,000 in the 1990 to 287,000 in 2010. However we will not achieve the 75% reduction which was the goal by 2015. Hence we could continue the efforts and we can achieve the desi-

## Salute materna: Dobbiamo continuare ad impegnarci per salvare le donne in gravidanza

**Il mondo intero ha dovuto congratularsi per i risultati ottenuti nel ridurre la mortalità materna, passata da 543 mila decessi nel 1990 a 287mila nel 2010. Tuttavia, non riusciremo a raggiungere l'obiettivo fissato al 75% entro il 2015. Continueremo dunque ad impegnarci e potremo raggiungere l'obiettivo desiderato in pochi anni in più**

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**Alla fine del secolo**, i leader del mondo fecero un deciso passo avanti ed identificarono otto Obiettivi di Sviluppo del Millennio, che vennero definiti in modo ben chiaro allo scopo di rendere il mondo un posto migliore in cui vivere, di conseguenza migliorare la vita di tutti. L'obiettivo 1 riguardava la povertà ed il relativo sradicamento; l'obiettivo 2, la diffusione di una istruzione universale; l'obiettivo 3, l'uguaglianza tra i sessi; l'obiettivo 4, la riduzione della mortalità infantile; l'obiettivo 5, la riduzione della mor-

talità materna; infine l'obiettivo 6 riguardava la riduzione della mortalità causata da malaria, tubercolosi e HIV/AIDS. Questi obiettivi sono collegati tra loro. Infatti, povertà, mancanza di istruzione ed uguaglianza tra i sessi contribuiscono alla realizzazione degli obiettivi 4, 5 e 6. Allo stesso modo, una riduzione della mortalità materna contribuirà alla realizzazione degli altri obiettivi. Il mondo intero ha dovuto congratularsi per i risultati ottenuti nel ridurre la mortalità materna, passata da 543.000 decessi nel 1990 a 287.000 nel 2010. Tuttavia, non riusciremo a raggiungere l'obiettivo fissato al 75% entro il 2015. Continueremo comunque ad impegnarci e potremo raggiungere l'obiettivo desiderato in pochi anni in più. La riduzione della mortalità ha registrato ottimi risultati nei paesi poveri, e non sono state

**Contracezione, assistenza all'aborto sicuro e assistenza ostetrica per le emergenze prenatali e intrapartali sono i servizi salvavita in ogni unità se vogliamo ridurre ulteriormente la mortalità materna.**

