

The Ending Preventable Stillbirths Scorecard: Global (2019)

Tracking progress against the Lancet's "Ending preventable stillbirths" series (2016) Call to action



Developed by the Stillbirth Advocacy Working Group, co-chaired by the International Stillbirth Alliance and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, founded by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

For more details and references, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2LdGUDH>

Introduction to the Ending Preventable Stillbirths Scorecard

Each year, an estimated 2.6 million babies are stillborn. Progress to reduce this large burden has been slow. The Lancet's "Ending Preventable Stillbirths" series (2016) sought to highlight missed opportunities and identify actions for accelerated progress to end preventable stillbirths. The series concluded with a Call to Action. The Call to Action covers three distinct areas – (1) 2030 mortality targets, (2) universal health care coverage targets, and (3) global and national milestones for improving care and outcomes for all mothers and their babies (as specified by the Every Newborn Action Plan, or ENAP) and specifically for women and families affected by stillbirth. The Global Scorecard has been produced by the Stillbirth Advocacy Working Group (SAWG) to track progress at a global level towards this Call to Action. The SAWG, founded by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in 2016 and co-chaired by the International Stillbirth Alliance and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, is a group of academics, researchers, parents and advocates from diverse organizations including UNICEF, FIGO, ICM, national and global non-governmental organizations, universities, and parent organizations. The SAWG's mission is to use advocacy for stillbirth prevention and post-stillbirth support. Three years since the Call to Action was launched, how much progress has been made at a global level towards its targets and milestones? We hope that this global scorecard will be a useful resource for the global community, including UN bodies, bilateral organisations, parent organizations, donors and NGOs, in particular for highlighting areas where insufficient progress is being made and where further investments and actions are needed.

The Lancet's "Ending Preventable Stillbirths" series Call to Action

Mortality targets by 2030 (included in the Every Newborn Action Plan)

- **National level:** 12 stillbirths or fewer per 1000 total births in every country
- **Subnational level:** All countries set and meet targets to close equity gaps and use data to track and prevent stillbirths

Universal health care coverage targets

- **Family planning:** By 2020, 120 million more women and girls with access to contraceptives; by 2030, universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services and integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- **Antenatal care:** By 2030, universal quality of care and comprehensive antenatal care for all women
- **Care during labour and birth:** By 2030, effective and respectful intrapartum care to all women in all countries

Milestones

- **Respectful care, including bereavement support after a death:** By 2020, global consensus on a package of care after a death in pregnancy or childbirth for the affected family, community, and caregivers in all settings
- **Reduce stigma:** By 2020, all countries to identify mechanisms to reduce stigma associated with stillbirth among all stakeholders, particularly health workers and communities
- **Every Newborn global and national milestones** met by 2020, including the Measurement Improvement Roadmap (tracked by UNICEF/WHO)



Selection of indicators to track the Call to Action

Indicators were chosen by a subgroup of the SAWG to reflect the three areas of the Call to Action. Where possible, indicators already collated by UN and other organisations were used. In particular, the annual tracking tool used by UNICEF and WHO to monitor progress towards the Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) provides many indicators to track progress for maternal and newborn health, including stillbirths. Indicators were chosen in order to capture not only the ultimate outcomes of a component of the Call, but also the processes and policies required to achieve them. The draft list of proposed indicators and draft scorecard were circulated in several rounds to the wider SAWG as well as targeted organisations including UNICEF, WHO, and the White Ribbon Alliance for comments and further suggestions, prior to finalising. Indicators were scored according to benchmarks – from red (below expectation) through to dark green (fully achieved). Indicators with no data are shown as dark grey. A full description of the indicators and scoring criteria is given in Annex 1. Overall global results are shown where available. In addition, results are shown for the high burden countries participating in the ENAP tracking tool (see Annex 2 for list; 74 countries in 2018 and 90 countries in 2019). The simplified scorecard is shown below, with the detailed version in Annex 4.

Main findings

The 2019 scorecard shows that whilst some progress is being made towards the targets and milestones from the Ending Preventable Stillbirths Call to Action, further effort is needed, as mechanisms remain inadequate to fully monitor progress. For example, many countries lack regular and nationwide stillbirth monitoring mechanisms, and rely on global estimates. Just 31% of high-burden countries have set national stillbirth targets, and there is no tracking of sub-national stillbirth rates, essential for reducing inequity. Information is currently lacking to track equity and quality of care indicators essential for stillbirth prevention, although work is under way by WHO and UNICEF to close this information gap. No data are currently available to track country progress towards taking steps to reduce stigma, and more work is needed in this area. However, just over half of countries have achieved the global stillbirth rate target, shifting this indicator from red in 2018 to amber in 2019, and all countries being tracked in Latin America and Europe achieved this target. There is evidence of some progress being made at a policy level towards these targets as well; for example, WHO released recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience and intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience, and the Every Newborn Action Plan has encouraged the setting of newborn plans at a country level in high burden settings.

Ultimately, though, there is still much scope to improve attention and action for stillbirth prevention and post-stillbirth care within these initiatives and beyond, especially in the area of respectful supportive care after a death and actions to reduce stigma associated with stillbirth. Adoption and use of this scorecard at country level will require champions to galvanize support and lead national-level discussions to complete and use the scorecard. Until national-level stakeholders are in a position to adopt a Stillbirth Scorecard, stakeholders at sub-national levels may be the most effective advocates for more localized advocacy, including the use of sub-national stillbirth scorecards.

The Ending Preventable Stillbirths Scorecard: Global (summary version, 2019)

Indicator		Global		High-burden countries		Africa		Asia		Latin America	Europe
		2018	2019	2018 (n=74)	2019 (n=90)	2018 (n=44)	2019 (n=49)	2018 (n=30)	2019 (n=35)	2019 (n=3)	2019 (n=3)
Mortality targets by 2030	1.1 Countries with Newborn Plan										
	1.2 Countries with stillbirth rate target										
	1.3 Countries achieved stillbirth rate global target	Slow/no progress	Making progress								
	1.4 Countries with subnational Newborn Plan										
	1.5 Countries with stillbirth rate equity target										
	1.6 Countries reporting subnational SBRs										
UHC: Family planning	2.1 Additional users of modern methods of contraception	Slow/no progress	Slow/no progress								
	2.2 Percentage demand for contraception satisfied	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Slow/no progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	
	2.3 Countries with reproductive health plan	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
UHC: Antenatal care	2.4 Availability of global standards for antenatal care	Achieved	Achieved								
	2.5 Antenatal care coverage	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress
	2.6 Quality of antenatal care	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
UHC: Intrapartum care	2.7 Global standards for intrapartum care	Achieved	Achieved								
	2.8 Skilled birth attendants	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress	Making progress
	2.9 Quality of intrapartum care	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Milestones	3.1 MNH quality improvement										
	3.2 Perinatal Death Review systems										
	3.3 Research focusing on stillbirths planned by country										
	3.4 Respectful care after a death	Making progress	Making progress								
	3.5 Reduce stigma	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Legend: Achieved, On track, Making progress, Slow/no progress, No data; blank cells mean the indicator is not applicable in this setting.

Annex I: Description of indicator thresholds using colour codes

Indicator	Indicator Definition	Data Source				
Mortality targets						
1.1 Countries with Newborn Plan	Percentage of high-burden countries with ENAP plan or sharpened maternal-newborn component within the RMNCAH plan	ENAP tracking tool undertaken in high-burden countries annually by UNICEF (90 countries in 2019)	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
1.2 Countries with stillbirth rate target	Percentage of high-burden countries with target for stillbirth rate within ENAP or RMNCAH plan	ENAP tracking tool undertaken in high-burden countries annually by UNICEF (90 countries in 2019)	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
1.3 Countries achieved stillbirth rate global target	Percentage of all countries reached SBR target of 12 or fewer per 1000 total births	WHO global health observatory (for year 2015); UNIGME from 2018 onwards (next estimates expected 2020)	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
1.4 Countries with a sub-national Newborn Plan	Percentage of high-burden countries with a sub-national ENAP plan or sharpened maternal-newborn component within the RMNCAH plan	ENAP tracking tool undertaken in high-burden countries annually by UNICEF (90 countries in 2019)	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
1.5 Countries with stillbirth rate equity target	Percentage of all countries with a stillbirth equity target	Equity targets not being routinely tracked. Case studies may be available for high-income countries (eg Australia, possibly Ireland).	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
1.6 Countries reporting subnational SBRs	Percentage of all countries reporting subnational SBRs	UNIGME is collecting this data from administrative data sources as part of ongoing stillbirth estimates work. No current plan for modelling subnational stillbirth rates in UNIGME	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
UHC Family planning						
2.1 Additional users of modern methods of contraception	The number of additional women of reproductive age (or their partners) currently using a modern contraceptive method compared to 2012	http://www.track20.org/ Estimated using data from surveys such as the DHS, RHS, MICS, PMA2020 and other nationally representative surveys, service statistics and population data. Updated annually	120 million additional users	≥90 million - <120 million additional users	≥60 million - <90 million additional users	<60 million additional users
2.2 Percentage demand for contraception satisfied	The percentage of women (or their partners) who desire either to have no additional children or to postpone the next child and who are currently using a modern contraceptive method. Women using a traditional method are assumed to have an unmet need for modern contraception.	http://www.track20.org/ Estimated using data from surveys such as the DHS, MICS, PMA2020, RHS and other nationally representative surveys; modelling using surveys and service statistics	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
2.3 Countries with reproductive health plan	Percentage of high-burden countries with a reproductive health plan or sharpened reproductive component within the RMNCAH plan?	No data	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
UHC: Antenatal care						
2.4 Global standards for antenatal care	Availability of global standards for antenatal care (going forward, we may wish to see if ENAP can track the number of countries who have adopted/adapted these guidelines)	WHO clinical guidance updated for ' Pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and newborn care ' (2015). ' WHO Antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience ' (2016). ' Managing complications in pregnancy and childbirth ' (2017).	Fully achieved	NA	NA	NA

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2.5 Antenatal care	Percentage of women who receive at least 4 antenatal care visits	Joint tracking by WHO/ UNICEF based on population based national household survey data and routine health systems	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
2.6 Quality of antenatal care	No validated indicator currently available for effective coverage of ANC, but methodological work ongoing at WHO	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
UHC: Care during labor & birth						
2.7 Global standards for intrapartum care	Availability of global standards for intrapartum care (going forward, we may wish to see if ENAP can track the number of countries who have adopted/adapted these guidelines)	WHO clinical guidance updated for ' Pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and newborn care ' (2015). ' Managing complications in pregnancy and childbirth ' (2017). ' Intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience ' (2018).	Fully achieved	NA	NA	NA
2.8 Skilled birth attendants	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (SDG 3.1.2)	Joint tracking by WHO/ UNICEF based on population-based national household survey data and routine health systems	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
2.9 Quality of intrapartum care	No validated indicator currently available for effective coverage of intrapartum care, but methodological work ongoing at WHO	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Milestones						
3.1 MNH Quality improvement	Percentage of high burden countries reporting a national Quality Improvement plan with a specific focus on maternal and newborn health	ENAP tracking tool undertaken in high-burden countries annually by UNICEF (90 countries in 2019)	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
3.2 Perinatal Death Review systems	Percentage of high-burden countries reporting a perinatal death review system in place, either stand-alone or as part of maternal death review and response programmes	ENAP tracking tool undertaken in high-burden countries annually by UNICEF (90 countries in 2019)	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
3.3 National stillbirth research	Percentage of high-burden countries reporting research focusing on stillbirths under way or planned in their country	ENAP tracking tool undertaken in high-burden countries annually by UNICEF (90 countries in 2019)	100%	≥75%-<100%	≥50 - <75%	0 - <50%
3.4 Respectful care after a death	Global consensus on a package of care after a death in pregnancy or childbirth for the affected family, community, and caregivers in all settings agreed by global stillbirth community including WHO	International Stillbirth Alliance is leading a multi-partner initiative to develop consensus on a global package *to include a wide range of stakeholders from all geographical regions, including parents and front-line health workers	Global consensus reached and included in WHO guidance	Inclusive & transparent process underway *	Co-ordinated background Research undertaken to inform global consensus	Limited or no co-ordinated global focused work begun
3.5 Reduce stigma	Number of countries instituting a process to identify mechanism to reduce stigma associated with stillbirth among all stakeholders, particularly health workers and communities	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

Note: Indicators with no data will be coloured dark grey.

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Annex 2: High-burden countries participating in ENAP tracking tool

2018 (n=74): (Asia) Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, **(Africa)** Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

2019 (n=90): (Africa) Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, **(Asia)** Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, **(Latin America)** Argentina, Nicaragua, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), **(Europe)** Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia

Annex 3: Acronyms

ANC – Antenatal Care

DHS – Demographic and Health Surveys

ENAP – Every Newborn Action Plan

FIGO – International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics

ICM – International Confederation of Midwives

ISA – International Stillbirth Alliance

LSHTM – London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

MICS – Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

NGO – non-governmental organization

MNH – Maternal and Newborn Health

NA – not applicable

PMA2020 – Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020

RHS – Reproductive Health Services

RMNCAH – Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health

SAWG – Stillbirth Advocacy Working Group

SBR – Stillbirth Rate

SDG – Sustainable Development Goal

TBC – to be confirmed

UHC – Universal Healthcare

UN – United Nations

UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund

UNIGME – United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

WHO – World Health Organization

Annex 4: The Ending Preventable Stillbirths Scorecard: Global (2019)

Call to action	Indicator	Global		High-burden countries		Africa		Asia		Latin America	Europe		
		2018	2019	2018 (n=74)	2019 (n=90)	2018 (n=44)	2019 (n=49)	2018 (n=30)	2019 (n=35)	2019 (n=3)	2019 (n=3)		
Mortality targets by 2030	12 stillbirths or fewer per 1000 total births in every country by 2030	1.1 Countries with Newborn Plan		81%	89%	73%	63%	93%	91%	66%	100%		
		1.2 Countries with stillbirth rate target		23%	31%	16%	33%	30%	34%	0%	0%		
		1.3 Countries achieved stillbirth rate global target		48%	53%	23%	29%	7%	8%	47%	45%	100%	100%
	All countries set and meet targets to close equity gaps and use data to track and prevent stillbirths by 2030	1.4 Countries with subnational Newborn Plan				31%	26%	30%	22%	30%	31%	33%	0%
		1.5 Countries with stillbirth rate equity target		No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
		1.6 Countries reporting subnational SBRs		No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
UHC: Family planning	By 2020, 120 million more women and girls with access to contraceptives	2.1 Additional users of modern methods of contraception		38,880,000	46,490,000								
	By 2030, universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	2.2 Percentage demand for contraception satisfied		68%	68%	54%	53%	48%	53%	62%	53%	90%	
		2.3 Countries with reproductive health plan		No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
UHC: Antenatal care	By 2030, universal quality of care and comprehensive antenatal care for all women	2.4 Availability of global standards for antenatal care		Achieved	Achieved								
		2.5 Antenatal care		62%	62%	56%	56%	50%	53%	59%	58%	87%	60%
		2.6 Quality of antenatal care		No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
UHC: Intrapartum care	By 2030, effective and respectful intrapartum care to all women in all countries	2.7 Global standards for intrapartum care		Achieved	Achieved								
		2.8 Skilled birth attendants		78%	78%	73%	73%	57%	57%	81%	83%	99%	99%
		2.9 Quality of intrapartum care		No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Milestones	Every Newborn global and national milestones met by 2020, including the Measurement Improvement Roadmap	3.1 MNH quality improvement		53%	60%	48%	55%	60%	63%	67%	100%		
		3.2 Perinatal Death Review systems		50%	53%	52%	49%	47%	57%	67%	33%		
		3.3 Research focusing on stillbirths planned by country		27%	44%	20%	37%	37%	48%	100%	67%		
	Respectful care, including bereavement support after a death: by 2020, global consensus on a package of care after a death in pregnancy or childbirth for the affected family, community, and caregivers in all settings	3.4 Respectful care after a death		Ongoing research to inform global consensus	Ongoing research to inform global consensus								
		3.5 Reduce stigma		No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	
	Reduce stigma: by 2020, all countries to identify mechanisms to reduce stigma associated with stillbirth among all stakeholders, particularly health workers and communities												

n, number of countries; SBR, stillbirth rate; MNH, maternal and newborn health; UHC, universal healthcare. Created by the Stillbirth Advocacy Working Group, www.stillbirthalliance.org

Ending Preventable Stillbirths Scorecard: Global (2019), www.stillbirthalliance.org. Please acknowledge SAWG, ISA and LSHTM when using this scorecard.