

Response to Save the Children's "No Child Born to Die" campaign

March 2015

Thank you for getting in touch regarding Save the Children's "No Child Born to Die" campaign about preventable child deaths.

Under the Millennium Development Goals, the world has made significant progress in reducing maternal mortality. The maternal mortality ratio dropped by 45% between 1990 and 2013. Each region of the world has seen significant improvement, though it is right to point out that none have yet reached the goal of a 75% reduction in mortality. There is more work to do.

As the Co-chair of the UN High Level Panel, the Prime Minister took a leading role in discussions about the post-2015 development agenda. Since then, the Open Working Group has also proposed an illustrative set of goals and targets and I am pleased that these include one to "end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age" by 2030. This agenda is a priority for the UK and we will continue to champion children's rights throughout negotiations in New York.

The Government is committed to spending an additional £2.1 billion on women's and newborn health between 2010 and 2015. This funding will help to save the lives of at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth, and 250,000 newborn babies by 2015. It will also support at least 2 million safe deliveries providing long lasting improvements to maternity services.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement on this important issue. We remain committed to ensuring that every child has access to the basic healthcare they need to survive, no matter who they are or where they live.

At a global level, the UK advocates strongly for Universal Health Coverage, which reaches the most vulnerable and marginalised. Underpinning our approach is a long-standing focus on strengthening health systems. Removing the financial barriers to accessing healthcare and encouraging increasing domestic resources for health are also an essential part of our approach.

JUSTINE GREENING