The place of adolescent health, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health in the context of, and beyond the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals)

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- The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ✓
- 2. The place of adolescents & adolescent health within the MDGs
- 3. Progress in achieving the MDGs
- 4. The Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health
- Important health issues affecting adolescents, which are not addressed by the MDGs



## Millennium Development Goals

- **Goal 1**: Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
- **Goal 2**: Achieve universal primary education
- **Goal 3**: Promote gender equality & empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- **Goal 5**: Improve maternal health

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- **Goal 6**: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases
- **Goal 7**: Ensure environmental sustainability
  - **Goal 8**: Develop a global partnership for development

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# Addressing adolescents, especially adolescent girls, is key to achieving the MDGs

- There are 600 million adolescent girls in the developing world
- Achieving MDGs 1-6 (including reducing childhood mortality, maternal mortality & HIV) <u>requires</u> <u>concerted attention</u> to adolescent girls.

"...by virtue of gender & other social inequalities, many adolescent girls in developing countries are at risk from violence; forced early marriage; HIV/AIDS & other STIs; & especially among the poor, exclusion from schooling, fair employment, & good health care".

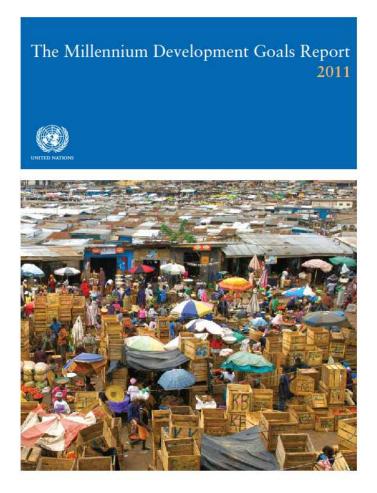


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# Progress has been made in achieving the MDGs but this has been uneven and slow

- " Between now & 2015 we must make sure that promises made are promises kept. The people of the world are watching."
- Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General, United Nations



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### GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

# The relevance of adolescent pregnancy to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- Adolescent pregnancy contributes to maternal mortality
- Adolescent pregnancy contributes to perinatal and infant mortality
- Adolescent pregnancy contributes to the vicious cycle of poverty.



### The relevance of adolescent pregnancy to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- Adolescent pregnancy • contributes to maternal
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### The contexts of adolescent pregnancies are not always the same.

World Health Organization

Having a child outside marriage is not uncommon in many countries. Latin America, the Caribbean, parts of sub-Saharan Africa and high-income countries have higher rates of adolescent pregnancy outside marriage than does Asia.

### Addressent pregnancy is dangerous for the mother

- Although adolescents aged 10-19 years account for 11% of all births worldwide. they account for 23% of the overall burden of disease (disability- adjusted life years) due to pregnancy and childbirth.
- Fourteen percent of all unsafe abortions in low- and middle-income countries are among women aged 15-19 years. About 2.5 million adolescents have unsafe abortions every year, and adolescents are more seriously affected by complications than are older women.
- \_\_\_\_ In Latin America, the risk of maternal death is four times higher among adolescents younger than 16 years than among women in their twenties.
- Many health problems are particularly associated with negative outcomes of pregnancy during adolescence. These include anaemia, malaria, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, postpartum haemorrhage and mental disorders, such as depression
- Up to 65% of women with obstetric fistula develop this as adolescents, with dire consequences for their lives, physically and socially

### dolescent pregnancy is dangerous for the child

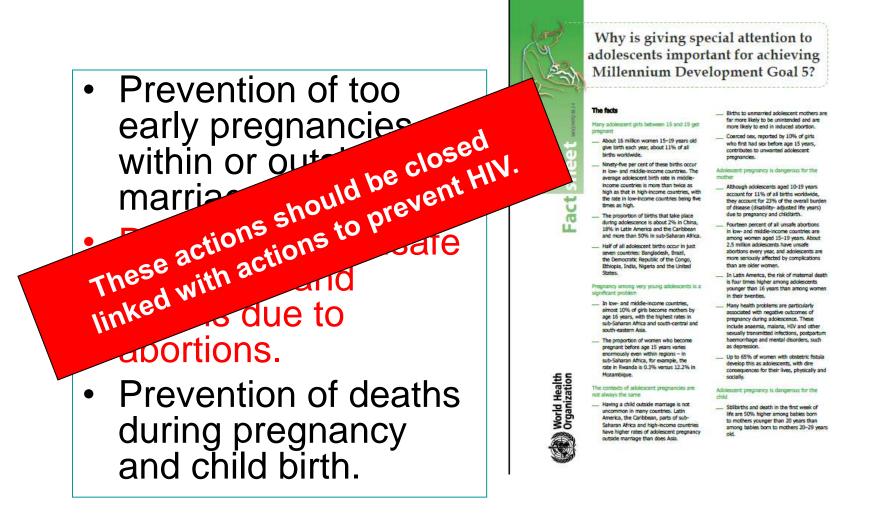
\_\_\_\_ Stillbirths and death in the first week of life are 50% higher among bables born to mothers younger than 20 years than among bables born to mothers 20-29 years

### Action to address adolescent pregnancy: 3 key elements

- Prevention of too early pregnancies – within or outside marriage.
- Prevention of unsafe abortions, and deaths due to abortions.
- Prevention of deaths during pregnancy and child birth.



### Action to address adolescent pregnancy: 3 key elements



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We also need to pay attention to the health problems not covered by the MDGs

## Effects during adolescence...

- Mental health conditions represent the biggest burden of disease in young people. Depression is the most prevalent diagnosis, & is a significant risk factor for suicide.
- Violence & injuries affect adolescents more than any other age- group.
- Sexual coercion & violence against adolescents continues to be a problem which must be addressed.
- Use of substances, in particular alcohol use, leads to high levels of risk behaviours & a large burden of diseases.

## Effects in the future...

- Health behaviours adopted during adolescence determine the risk for non-communicable diseases later in life.
  - The majority of tobacco users start consuming tobacco products in their youth. This leads in time to disease and premature death.
  - Levels of overweight & obesity in young people are increasing worldwide & will affect the prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes.