

## Measuring Ghana's progress towards reaching its Every Woman Every Child commitments

The Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health - Every Woman Every Child - was initiated by the Secretary General of the United Nations in 2010 with the aim to save 16 million lives globally by 2015 through joint action.

This document gauges Ghana's progress to date towards reaching its 2010 and 2012 national commitments.

Commitment	Achievements	Gaps	Recommendations for action
Increase the proportion of fully immunized children to 85%.	In 2011, 84% of children aged 12-23 months were fully vaccinated.	Vaccination rates needs to be increased to reach 85% by 2015 and maintained at this level.	Sustain investment in immunization programs and expand door-to-door immunization services, especially to remote areas.
Strengthen the free maternal health care policy.	The free maternal care policy has led to more facility-based deliveries and 3,000 maternal lives saved between 2008 and 2011. Utilisation rate of the free health care was around 66% in 2011. Efforts are now being made to further strengthen the free maternal care policy including coping with a growing number of patients at facilities, improving quality of services and reforming the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) claim reimbursement processes and tariffs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Persistent regional and social disparities in access to care</li> <li>- Large human resource costs resulting in increased workloads of existing staff</li> <li>- Delay in claim reimbursement to facilities resulting in women having to pay for supplies which should have been free</li> <li>- The provision of free care is dependent on a functioning and financially sustainable National Health Insurance Scheme which is currently challenged and in need of reform</li> </ul>	Further strengthen the free maternal healthcare policy to ensure equal access for all to free care with particular focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressing regional and social access disparities and challenges relating to increasing human resources costs and workloads</li> <li>- Reducing financial barriers by addressing delays in claim reimbursement to facilities</li> <li>- Reform the National Health Insurance Scheme to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the system and to eliminate remaining financial barriers for the poor</li> </ul>
Make family planning free in the public sector and support the private sector to provide services	In December 2013 the government announced that family planning will be incorporated into the free maternal care provided under the National Health Insurance Scheme. USAID funds current initiatives to support licensed chemical sellers to provide family planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Geographical, financial and cultural barriers hinder family planning use</li> <li>- Since free family planning will be provided through the free maternal care policy, it is vulnerable to the same challenges regarding human resources costs, efficiency and financial sustainability of the NHIS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fully implement the free family planning as announced and ensure that it reaches all, also those living in remote areas</li> <li>- Take action to address financial, human resources and efficiency challenges related to the free maternal care policy and the NHIS to ensure full implementation of the new initiative</li> </ul>
Increase health funding to 15% of the national budget by 2015	The health spending trend has been positive with spending increasing from 11.9% in 2011 to 12.5% in 2012.	The health spending needs to increase by 2.5% of total government expenditure to reach the target.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the health budget with 2.5% to reach 15% of total government expenditure by 2015.</li> <li>- Improve mechanisms for effective and transparent disbursement of funds and for health spending monitor and evaluation.</li> </ul>
Ensure 95% of pregnant women are reached with comprehensive services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT)	75% of HIV+ pregnant women were reached with PMTCT services in 2011. The national HIV/AIDS strategic plan, which includes testing and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, has been implemented in all regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) coverage needs to increase by 20%</li> <li>- The PMTCT coverage is linked to the functioning of the free maternal care policy and the National Health Insurance Scheme</li> </ul>	Complete implementation of the national HIV/AIDS strategic plan in all regions to reach 95% coverage of prevention of mother-to-child transmission services for pregnant women.
Ensure security for family planning commodities	Since 2012 the Government and Ghana Health Service have led development of supply plans and coordination of partners for sound procurement of contraceptives leading to better data management and sharing, ensuring better availability of contraceptives and increased ability to respond to emergencies. SMS alerts are being tested to prevent local stock-outs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are frequent stock-outs of family planning commodities in Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) compounds, managing supply logistics is a challenge and supplies are late</li> <li>- Recent reforms of the CHPS system present opportunities to reach more clients and a challenge if adequate logistics are not mobilised for effective outreach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase resources for family planning</li> <li>- Further improve contraceptive supply chain management at all levels</li> <li>- Ensure effective Government regulation of private sector family planning providers</li> <li>- Invest in logistics capacity building and equipment to overcome bottlenecks preventing access to family planning, particularly at District and community level</li> </ul>
Improve family planning for youth through promoters and adolescent friendly services	The adolescent health strategic plan to improve youth friendly services was disseminated to all stakeholders during 2012.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is currently no evidence of implementation of the strategic plan</li> <li>- There are barriers to contraceptive use among young people. Adolescent birth rate is at 70 per 1,000 women.</li> </ul>	Fully implement the adolescent strategic plan in all districts, including through youth promoters and adolescent friendly services, to address both demand and supply barriers to family planning utilisation.
Increase the proportion of children under five and pregnant women sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets to 85%	Between 2010 and 2012, Ghana Health Service provided free insecticide-treated bednets in all ten regions, through door-to-door outreach, distributing around 14 million nets over two years with the goal of achieving universal coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When data for MICS 2011 was collected, only 39% of children and 32.6% of pregnant women were sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets, which is less than half of what is needed to reach the target</li> <li>- Demand factors, such as social or cultural beliefs, are likely to limit the use of bednets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustain the free mass distribution of insecticide-treated bednets</li> <li>- Take action to address barriers to use of bednets through comprehensive education campaigns on the need for and the correct use of bednets, particularly for women and children</li> </ul>