

# PROTECT

## *the Promise*

**2022 Progress Report** on the Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030)



## *Message from the United Nations Secretary-General*

A more equitable world is one of the most important promises of the Sustainable Development Goals. Sadly, this report shows that with regard to the health and rights of women and children, that promise is not being kept. Far from a progress report, this document describes a reversal. Women's and children's health and rights are threatened to a degree not seen in more than a generation.

At the core of our unkept promise is the failure to address the gaping inequities at the root of global crises, from the COVID-19 pandemic to conflicts and the climate emergency. The report describes the impacts of these crises on women, children and adolescents, from maternal mortality to malnutrition and wasting.

If these inequities persist, we will not keep our promise for a healthier, safer and more just world for all by 2030. Nor will we be equipped to manage the next pandemic, prevent the next conflict, or adapt to the mounting loss and damage from climate-related disasters.

The recommendations in this report fall into four broad categories: increased investment in health, including primary healthcare systems; improvements to food supply; collaboration across sectors and partnerships with the private sector; and the protection and promotion of women's rights across the board. Taken together, these steps can address losses and build concrete progress for women, girls, and young people around the world.

I call on leaders to be resolute in implementing these solutions, honouring their commitments, and safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of every woman, child and young person.

*António Guterres*

Secretary-General  
United Nations



EVERY WOMAN  
EVERY CHILD

## Uneven progress



*5 million*

children died before they reached their fifth birthday in 2020. Almost half of those deaths occurred among newborns in the first month of life.



*≈ 2 million*

babies are stillborn every year.



*≈ 1 million*

adolescents died in 2020, most from injuries, violence, self-harm, infectious causes and complications in pregnancy.

Child and adolescent deaths are largely preventable and treatable with low cost interventions.

## Unprecedented regression



*14.9 million*

people died from COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021.



*10.5 million*

children have lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19.



*25 million*

children were un- or under-vaccinated.



*2.3 billion*

people were moderately or severely food insecure, an increase of 150 million more people from 2019 to 2021.



*45 per cent*

of all deaths in children under 5 were attributable to undernutrition.



*89.3 million*

people worldwide were driven from their homes by war, violence, persecution and human rights abuses by the end of 2021.

Escalation of risk

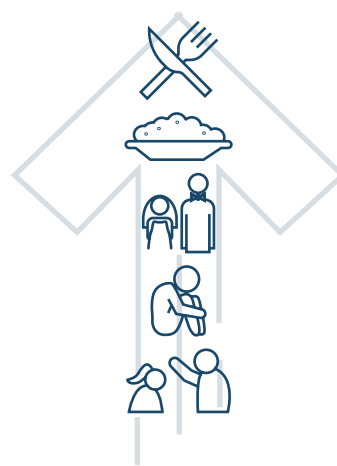
Food insecurity

Hunger

Child marriage

Adolescent depression and anxiety

Intimate partner violence



## Where crises hit hard



Most maternal, child and adolescent deaths and stillbirths are concentrated in low- and middle-income countries and in two regions, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.



A woman in sub-Saharan Africa has around a 130 times higher risk of dying from causes relating to pregnancy or childbirth than a woman in Europe or North America.



Most children affected by malnutrition live in Africa or Asia.



A child born in a high-income country is expected to live up to 17 years longer than a child born in a low-income country.



6 countries with the highest numbers of internally displaced persons – Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ehtiopia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen – were among the top 10 food crisis countries.

## Compounding threats

# COVID-19

# CONFLICT

# CLIMATE

### What we must do

1

Strengthen primary health care systems to deliver essential interventions to all women, children and adolescents.

2

Improve multisectoral collaboration so that services are better integrated and reach every woman, child and adolescent.

3

Improve women's empowerment and bolster women's and girls' leadership opportunities.

4

Advance and leverage private-public partnerships to improve funding and services for women, children and adolescents.

5

Secure increased financial investments by governments and their partners for women's children's and adolescents' health.

6

Improve food security and nutrition and prioritize humanitarian food assistance while building more resilient food systems.

"As the world emerges from the pandemic, protecting and promoting the health of women, children and young people is essential for supporting and sustaining the global recovery."

*Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus*  
WHO Director-General

"By investing in resilient, inclusive primary health care systems, jumpstarting routine immunization programmes, and strengthening the health workforce, we can make sure that every woman and every child can access the care they need to survive and thrive."

*Catherine Russell*  
UNICEF Executive Director

"Access to sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception, is a fundamental right that directly and acutely affects the ability of women and adolescent girls to thrive. We need to expand these rights and services to the most marginalized, leaving no one behind."

*Natalia Kanem*  
UNFPA Executive Director

"In a world where too many children, adolescents and women are dying, equity, empowerment and access are what needs urgent focus."

*H.E. Kersti Kaljulaid*  
Global Advocate for Every Woman Every Child

"Experts and world leaders are calling for more women in policy- and decision-making at every level, meaningful engagement with young people, and primary health care systems which deliver what people need when and where they need it most."

*Rt. Hon Helen Clark*

Board Chair of PMNCH and former Prime Minister of New Zealand



EVERY WOMAN  
EVERY CHILD



World Health  
Organization



PMNCH  
for  
Women's,  
Children's and  
Adolescents'  
Health



Countdown to 2030

Women's, Children's & Adolescents' Health