

FIGO Declaration And Call For Action: The Need For Maternal Health Indicators, Countdown 2015

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Given the slow progress in attaining MDGs 4, 5, 6, and especially in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, FIGO calls on UN Agencies, governments, and benefactors/donors to develop and implement new maternal health indicators to evaluate ongoing progress, or lack of progress, toward maternal health.

The Countdown 2015 process has a number of indicators of neonatal and child health that helps quantify the progress, or lack of progress, in newborn/child health, whereas maternal health indicators are limited to maternal mortality, family planning uptake, and skilled attendance in labour.

FIGO calls on its member societies to strongly lobby governments, international agencies, and donors to create and implement additional critical indicators of maternal health such as availability and utilization of oxytocin, magnesium sulphate, antibiotics for septic abortion and post-partum sepsis, caesarean section and fistula rates and female genital mutilation, particularly infibulation and reinfibulation. Implementation of such indicators, and quantifying their impact, will be an essential part of progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.