A Neglected Tragedy: The global burden of stillbirths
Substantial data gaps

62 countries have no stillbirth data or quality data available

Almost half (44%) of countries in sub-Saharan Africa have no stillbirth data or quality data available

Note: Map does not reflect a position by UN IGME agencies on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.
Enormous loss

48 million babies were stillborn in the past two decades

Nearly 2 million babies are stillborn every year

Nearly 164,000 every month

Nearly 5,400 every day

Over 200 every hour

Nearly 4 every minute

1 every 16 seconds
Globally, nearly 2 million babies are stillborn every year

Global stillbirth rate and number of stillbirths, 2000-2019

Large disparities

Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia account for 3/4 of global stillbirths

1 in 46 babies is stillborn in Sub-Saharan Africa

1 in 321 in Europe, Northern America, Australia and New Zealand

A 23-fold difference in the stillbirth rates across countries

Stillbirth rate by country, 2019

Lack of data at subnational level obscures marginalized populations

Note: Map does not reflect a position by UN IGME agencies on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.
Almost half of stillbirths occur during labour

Proportion of intrapartum and antepartum stillbirths in 2019 (%)

Slow progress

Progress is slower than in child mortality

- Annual rate of reduction (ARR) in stillbirth rate, 2000–2019: 2.3%
- ARR in under-five mortality rate, 2000–2019: 3.7%
- ARR in stillbirth rate:
  - 2000–2009: 2.4%
  - 2010–2019: 2.1%

Stillbirths are an increasingly important global public health problem

Share of stillbirths out of total stillbirths and under-five deaths (%)

- 2000:
  - Stillbirths: 23
  - Under-five deaths: 77
- 2019:
  - Stillbirths: 36
  - Under-five deaths: 64

Stillbirths are an increasingly important global public health problem.
COVID-19 pandemic threatens additional lives

An additional 200,000 stillbirths could be born over 12 months due to severe health service disruptions (around 50 per cent), in 117 LMICs.

Even before the pandemic, few women received timely and high-quality care to prevent stillbirths in LMICs.

In half countries analyzed, only 2 to 50 per cent of pregnant women received key interventions that could prevent stillbirths.

Coverage for assisted vaginal delivery, is estimated to reach less than half of pregnant woman.
With sound policy, investment and programs, 14 countries – including 3 low- and lower-middle income countries (Cambodia, India, Mongolia) – cut their stillbirth rate by more than half (2000-2019)

Most stillbirths are preventable with life-saving interventions and high-quality health care

Over 40% of stillbirths occur after the onset of labour
Urgent action

We must do better and faster

20 million babies are projected to be stillborn in the next decade, if trends observed between 2000 and 2019 in reducing the stillbirth rate continue.

56 countries are at risk to miss the ENAP target of 12 or fewer stillbirths per 1,000 total births by 2030.

34 countries will only meet the ENAP stillbirth target after 2050.

45 countries need to more than double their progress in reducing stillbirths in order to achieve the ENAP target.

Note: Map does not reflect a position by UN IGME agencies on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.
More information available at:

UN IGME stillbirth report

UN IGME data portal – www.childmortality.org
THANK YOU!

UNICEF
On behalf of IGME