Born Too Soon
The Global Action Report on Preterm Birth
Background

Every year preterm births result in over 1 million deaths. Preterm births is now the second largest cause of under-five child deaths worldwide, and the most important cause globally of neonatal deaths.

With neonatal deaths accounting for over 40% of under-five deaths, accelerating efforts to reduce preterm births and reduce neonatal morality are critical to achieving Millennium Development Goal 4 (reducing under-five child mortality by two-thirds by 2015).

In support of Every Woman Every Child and the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, Born Too Soon presents the first ever national, regional and global estimates on preterm births and points to the need for a scale up in efforts to prevent prematurity and care for affected newborns. While, the development of the Born Too Soon report has been led by March of Dimes, PMNCH, Saving Newborn Lives/Save the Children and the WHO, it has involved almost 50 partners from different stakeholder constituencies and reflects a true collaborative effort (organizations listed below).

Session objective

The breakfast briefing aims to:

- Share key findings of the report, including the first-ever preterm country estimates, with policy makers
- Share policy and program recommendations for prevention and care for preterm births
- Highlight commitments made to the Every Woman Every Child Campaign which address preterm birth
- Start the discussion on global targets for preterm reduction, to be launched on World Prematurity Day, 17 November 2012
Agenda

Moderator: Dr Richard Horton, Editor, the Lancet

8:00 - 8:02 Welcome
Dr Carole Presern, Director, PMNCH

8:02 - 8:05 Meeting our challenge to improve women’s and children’s health
Dr Flavia Bustreo, Assistant Director General FWC, WHO

8:05 - 8:15 Born Too Soon: Silent barrier to progress
Dr Joy Lawn, Saving Newborn Lives

8:15 - 8:20 Country case study: Malawi
Dr Charles Mansambo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health, Malawi on behalf of H.E. Dr Kumbo Kachali, Vice President and Minister of Health, Malawi

8:20 - 8:25 Country case study: China
Dr Chen Zhu Minister of Health, People's Republic of China

8:25 – 8:28 Civil society efforts to address preterm births
Dr Jose Michel, Director of Health for the Bolivian Red Cross

8:28 – 8:30 Addressing preterm births: a key component of child survival
Dr Ariel Pablos-Mendes, Assistant Administrator for Global Health USAID

8:30 – 9:20 Discussion

9:25 - 9:30 Summary, Closing comments
Dr Richard Horton, Editor, the Lancet

*Breakfast available from 7:30 am