

DEPARTMENT OF MATERNAL, NEWBORN,
CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH (MCA)



Progress report 2014–15

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Foreword

from the new Director, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MCA)



I feel greatly privileged to have joined the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health in September 2015. With our colleagues in the regional and country offices, and with partners all over the globe, we address some of the world's most important health issues. We support countries to implement programmes for maternal health, newborn and preterm care, the quality of service delivery and how to ensure patient safety, integrated management of childhood illness, early child development, adolescent health, community engagement and new and emerging threats such as the zikavirus-linked surge in microcephaly and other neurological syndromes. We have a large research programme focusing on newborn sepsis, kangaroo mother care, infant feeding, child survival, early child development and adolescent health. We contribute to the global monitoring of these problems and the definition of indicators and guidelines for governments and professionals. Above all we use our convening power to ensure that these problems benefit from the world's best minds and from innovative solutions.

We enjoy magnificent support from our outstanding and committed partners, donors and foundations, without whom our work would not be possible, and we thank them for their generosity. The next two years will be pivotal in implementing the UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030) as part of the switch to Sustainable Development Goals. There is much work to be done. The new strategy is about surviving, thriving and transforming. We shall need to be flexible and collaborative, to take risks, and to broaden our programmatic and research interests. This is a big challenge but we shall ensure that the team, working with our partners, can take it on.

Dr Anthony Costello

Director Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health

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