

A POLICY GUIDE

for Implementing
Essential Interventions
for Reproductive,
Maternal, Newborn
and Child Health
(RMNCH)





A MULTISECTORAL POLICY COMPENDIUM FOR RMNCH





A Policy Guide for Implementing Essential Interventions for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH): A Multisectoral Policy Compendium for RMNCH emerged from a series of multi-stakeholder consultations by networks of partners working on policies which affect reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health. The document is designed for an audience of policy-makers, programme managers and advocates who seek to classify and assess information on specific policies to promote the implementation of essential reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health interventions to address the main causes of maternal, newborn and child ill-health and deaths.

For a full list of partner organizations and contributors please see the back and inside covers.

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A POLICY GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTING ESSENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

This overview presents an 'at a glance reference' of key policies areas included in the guide.

*Electronic users: click on the icon to go to the corresponding content and resources.

	HEALTH SECTOR POLICIES FOR	SUPPORTING DELIVERY OF RMNCH INTERVENTIONS
	POLICY TOPIC AREAS	POLICY ON:
	Constitutional and legal entitlements that facilitate universal access to health care in support of RMNCH programming	Right to the highest attainable standard of healthUniversal access to health care and services
4===	2. Strategies, plans and mechanisms to guide RMNCH programme implementation	 Integration of RMNCH into National Health Strategy and Plan National RMNCH strategy(ies) and implementation plan(s) RMNCH institutional arrangements
4	3. Human rights-based approach to maternal, newborn and child health, including related sexual and reproductive health issues	 RMNCH programming includes a human rights based approach Access to sexual and reproductive health services Legal basis for safe abortion
5/	4. Mobilization and allocation of financial resources	 Sustainable financing of RMNCH RMNCH resource allocation and expenditure Elimination of financial barriers RMNCH resource reporting and tracking
	5. Human resources	Deployment and retentionAccreditation and certificationAuthorization of service provision and task shiftingRMNCH training curricula
+	6. Essential health infrastructure	- Essential health infrastructure and health facilities
	7. Essential medicines and commodities	Essential medicine, supply and equipment listMedicine and commodity security
	8. RMNCH service accessibility and quality	 Adapting RMNCH essential interventions for local use Standards on quality of RMNCH care Standards for RMNCH referral care Supportive supervision for all RMNCH health workers in the delivery of quality RMNCH care Community participation Community mobilization and health education
	9. Collection and use of data for planning and evaluating progress	 Birth registration Death notification Death reviews Well-functioning health information systems, including logistics, and surveillance system for RMNCH Defining key RMNCH indicators National and subnational RMNCH targets Data review process

FOR REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (RMNCH)

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Detailed policy content and links to related resources are presented in the section that follows.

In the content page, click on the icon again to come back to the overview.

MULTISECTORAL POLICIES WHICH INFLUENCE SERVICE DELIVERY AND RMNCH OUTCOMES		
POLICY ON:		
Eradicating income poverty and hungerReducing inequalitiesEnsuring decent working conditions and opportunities and productive employment		
Adequate nutritionQuality educationSocial protectionGender equality		
Protecting biodiversityStable climateSafe and affordable drinking waterAdequate sanitation		
Freedom from violence and abuseResilience to natural hazardsConflict-free access to natural resources		
Information and Communication Technologies and eHealthEssential infrastructure		
 The respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights International standards of behaviour and practice Efforts to improve development assistance and impact on development 		
 Voice and accountability Political stability and absence of violence Government effectiveness Regulatory quality Rule of law Control of corruption 		

APPROACH AND METHODS



BACKGROUND: POLICIES FOR REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (RMNCH)

Policies are essential for ensuring that all women and children have the opportunity to achieve the highest standard of health, by supporting the development of and sustaining effective health systems and by creating environments that promote health more broadly.

The majority of mortality and morbidity in women and children can be prevented with effective and affordable interventions that prevent or treat the most common causes of illness.¹ There is widespread consensus that improving the coverage and quality of these interventions should be the focus of policies and associated programmes (Box 1). Social determinants, including education, income, clean energy, availability of housing and access to improved water sources and sanitation facilities, also influence women's and children's health and their ability to receive essential interventions. However, in many settings, interventions are still not reaching women and children, and key social determinants of health remain unaddressed. In 2010, an estimated 287 000 women died during pregnancy and childbirth² and in 2012, 6.6 million children under the age of five died.³ Many countries are not yet on track to achieve MDGs 4, 5 and 6, - to reduce child

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