

Health

Elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus



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An adolescent Afghan girl receives a tetanus vaccination outside her home. UNICEF-trained vaccinators visit women of childbearing age in their homes, where 90 per cent of all deliveries take place.

death is reported.

The Solution

Maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) is easily preventable through:

- immunization of women with TT vaccine for protection against Tetanus – a child born to a woman protected against tetanus is also protected from the disease in the first few months of its life
- hygienic birth practices to ensure infection is not contracted by mother or newborn during the birth process
- proper cord care to ensure that contamination of cord does not put the newborn at risk

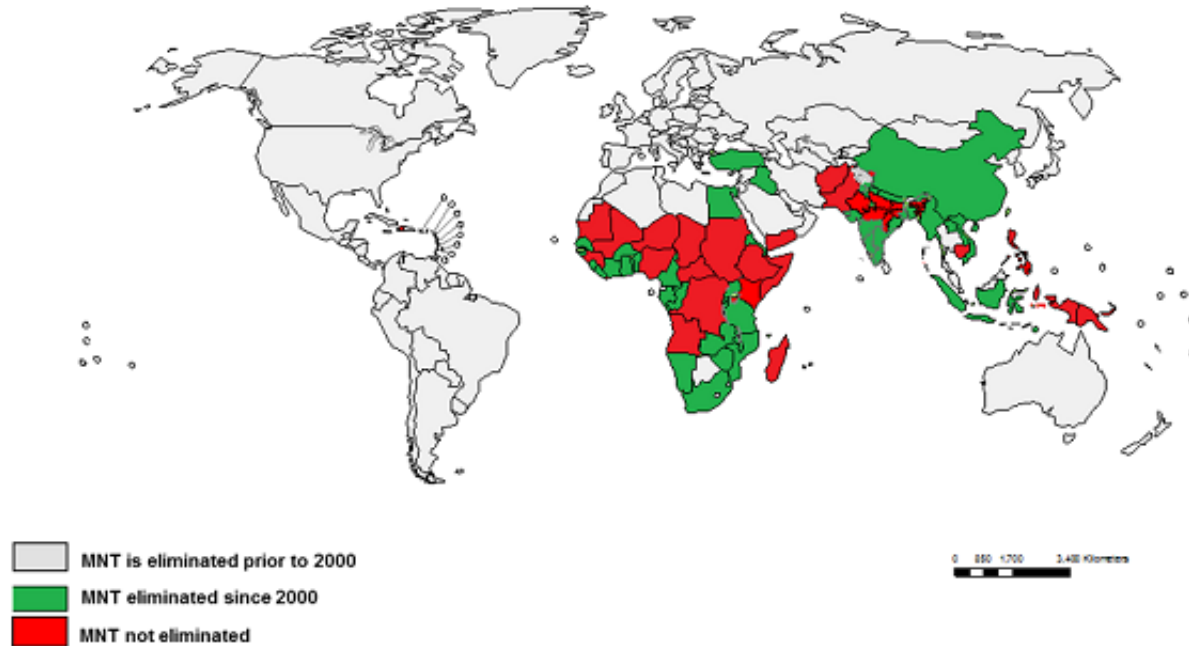
Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination Initiative:

The World Health Assembly first called for elimination of neonatal tetanus in 1989. In 1999, the goal was expanded to include elimination of the maternal tetanus. At that time, there were 57 countries that had still not eliminated MNT. The figure today stands at 59 with inclusion of Timor Leste in 2002 and South Sudan in 2011.

The goal of the initiative is to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) through focus on the TT-SIAs. As of December 2013, 34 of these countries had achieved MNT elimination leaving 25 countries that still have not eliminated the disease.

34 Countries eliminated MNT between 2000 & December 2013

*(Plus 18 States out of 35 in India, Ethiopia part and 29 provinces out of 33 in Indonesia) leaving 25 countries yet to eliminate MNT



Data Source: WHO/UNICEF database, December 2013
 194 WHO Member States.
 Map production: Immunization Vaccines and
 Biologicals, (IVB), World Health Organization
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MNT elimination in a country is defined as neonatal tetanus rate of less than one case of neonatal tetanus per 1000 live births in every district of the country. UNICEF and WHO's role in this global effort is:

- To advocate with partners including the national governments to commit to the goal of MNT elimination and support it through allocation of needed resources
- To fund raise for the initiative to meet the gaps in funding needs for the target countries
- To support national ministries of health in preparing technically and financially sound plan
- To procure and deliver the TT vaccines and injections supplies for the campaigns and ensure cold chain maintenance
- To provide technical assistance for implementation of high quality campaigns
- To monitor progress towards MNT elimination
- To validate (usually through community based mortality surveys) if elimination level has been reached in a country following the country's claim of elimination.
- To work with countries on strategies for maintaining MNT elimination including strengthening of routine immunization

Progress

Through the joint efforts of partners much progress has been made between 1999 and December 2013:

- More than 119 million women have been immunized with two or more doses of TT vaccine
- 34 countries (Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Laos PDR, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe),

and 18 States of India, all of Ethiopia except Somaliland, and almost 29 of 33 provinces in Indonesia have been validated to have eliminated MNT.

- As of 2010, approximately 90% reduction of Neonatal Tetanus mortality has been achieved in the last 20 years.

Partners

UNICEF is committed to eliminating MNT as a public health problem, a goal shared by our partners, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), Becton Dickinson (BD), USAID, CDC, Immunisation Basics, Government of Japan and JICA, Save the Children, GAVI, P&G (Pampers), PATH, RMHC, the Gates Foundation, UNICEF National committees and governments throughout the world. Recently, the Kiwanis International has joined the partnership.

Stories from the Field

[Myanmar achieves maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination](#)¹

['Give the Gift of Life' campaign with Pampers launched](#)²

[Immunization campaign works in Mauritania](#)³

The Silent Killer



[MNTE - the silent killer](#)⁴ - fact sheet

Watch a short film from the [U.S. Fund for UNICEF](#)⁵.



© UNICEF video



[Low](#)⁶ | [High](#)⁷

Stakeholders' Meeting May 2013

Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) [Stakeholders' Meeting in the Context of Maternal](#)

[and Newborn Health](#)⁸, New York, 15 May 2013

Progress on MNT Elimination

As of January 2013,

- 29 countries validated as having achieved MNT elimination.
- In India, 15 States and Union Territories validated as having eliminated MNT.
- In Indonesia, 29 of 33 provinces validated as having eliminated MNT.
- 30 countries still at risk.

Related resources from WHO

[Information on Tetanus](#)⁹

[Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination Initiative](#)¹⁰

[Data on Protection at birth against Tetanus](#)¹¹

[Publications](#)¹²

Links

1. http://www.unicef.org/media/media_53805.html
2. http://www.unicef.org/immunization/index_51235.html
3. http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/mauritania_50082.html
4. http://www.unicef.org/health/files/MNTE_equity.pdf
5. <http://www.unicefusa.org/hidden/why-tetanus-quick-facts.html>
6. http://stream.luxmedia.com/?file=clients/usf/tetanus/tetanus_56.rm
7. http://stream.luxmedia.com/?file=clients/usf/tetanus/tetanus_300.rm
8. <http://www.unicef.org/health/files/MNTE.pdf>
9. <http://www.who.int/immunization/topics/tetanus/en/index.html>
10. http://www.who.int/immunization_monitoring/diseases/MNTE_initiative/en/index.html
11. http://www.who.int/immunization_monitoring/en/globalsummary/timeseries/tswucoveragepab.htm
12. http://www.who.int/immunization_monitoring/diseases/MNTE_resources/en/index.html