

**SPEECH FOR PRIME MINISTER
ON
NATIONAL LAUNCH OF NEWBORN CHILD SURVIVAL- EVERY ONE
CAMPAIGN**

ON APRIL 17, 2010

**Makhdoom Shahabuddin, Minister for Health
Begum Shehnaz Wazir Ali, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Social
Sector**

**Mr Khushnood Akhter Lashari, Secretary Health
Prof. Dr Rashid Jooma, Director General Health
Dr Farooq Akhter, National Program Manager, National MNCH Program
Mr David Wright, Country Director Save the Children**

Respected Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a pleasure for me to inaugurate the Newborn and Child Survival- EVERY ONE Campaign in Pakistan. Public Health has always been a priority for my government. Today we are initiating collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Health and Save the Children under a new and innovative approach to improving health outcomes for newborns children and mothers while working towards achieving Pakistan's targets for Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. I am glad to note that over the years, we have made considerable progress in reducing high levels of infant and maternal mortality; however a number of newborns and mothers dying due to preventable causes is still a matter of grave concern for my government. It is through initiatives like these that I foresee a Pakistan where no child or mother has to suffer because of lack of access to quality health services. It was our cherished leader Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto Shaheed who initiated the Lady Health Workers Program for health uplift of our people living in rural underserved areas.

Taking forward the manifesto of improving the health of the nation and specifically providing maternal, newborn and child health services, we are introducing a cadre of Community Midwives who would be providing skilled birth attendance at the door steps of the communities. These CMWs are being inducted through National Maternal Newborn and Child Health Program. A total of 12000 CMWs will be inducted till 2012. Out of these 6000 have already received training and the rest are at various stages of recruitment and training.

Dear guests:

Let me assure you here that the Government is making all-out efforts to reach the goals which global community has set for all as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is reflected in government's partnership with Save the

Children in Newborn Child Survival – EVERY ONE Campaign in Pakistan. EVERY ONE Campaign; without any doubt is an extremely valuable initiative and reflects the national and international sincerity, commitment and vigor to contribute to health and development in Pakistan. We acknowledge all the efforts of our global and national partners for joining us in the government's pledge to effective health programming in Pakistan.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Government of Pakistan will always be there to provide required financial resources to MNCH Program even in the current times of financial crunch. We have proven this through practical action of manifested in our policies of health sector reforms and unprecedented budgetary allocations for health. The government is committed to incremental and sequential increase in budgetary allocations for health and is targeting a three-fold increase in our GDP spending on health over the five years with particular focus on maternal and child health. We are thankful to our global partners and civil society who have been supporting us in such efforts. Our aim is to provide quality health services in every corner of the country and we shall make sure that no child dies due to lack of health care.

I call upon all to join us in the EVERY ONE Campaign to save children's lives and newborns in Pakistan.

Long live our children. Long live Pakistan.

Thanks