



**30<sup>TH</sup> IPA CONGRESS & 60<sup>TH</sup> PEDICON 2023**  
Quality Care for Every Child Everywhere  
Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India | 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 2023

30th International Pediatric Association Congress 2023 &  
60th Annual Conference of The Indian Academy of Pediatrics

Organised by



**IPA** International  
Pediatric  
Association  
Every Child · Every Age · Everywhere

Hosted by



# CALL TO ACTION & COMMITMENT

International Pediatric Association (IPA )  
Theme for 2023-25: **Reaching every child**



**IPA** International  
Pediatric  
Association  
Every Child · Every Age · Everywhere

**Venue:** Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre, Gandhinagar

**Date & Time:** 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 | 7:00 pm IST

On the occasion of our 30<sup>th</sup> IPA Congress, IPA & its member societies call for urgent and coordinated action by governments, international agencies, development partners, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), private sector to address the needs of children and adolescents and to make child and adolescent health a top priority in achieving global goals.

## Considerations

- ◆ In 2021, almost **1.9 million babies were stillborn** at 28 weeks or more of gestation; to be accounted for **14 stillbirths for every 1,000 births**. This means **1 in 72** babies were stillborn.
- ◆ Approximately **2.3 million children died** during the **first month of life** – or about 6,400 babies every day in 2021. Mortality is compounded by lifelong morbidity.
- ◆ In 2021, **5 million children died before turning 5 years old**, and 2.1 million children, adolescents, and youth aged **5–24 years died** that same year.
- ◆ **25 million** children are **un or under-vaccinated** accounting for **17.1 million vulnerable zero-dose children**.
- ◆ **1 in 3 children** is exposed to dangerous levels of **lead**, **820 million** children are exposed to **heatwaves**, and **600 million** to **vector-borne diseases**.
- ◆ More than **30 million children** in 15 of the worst-affected countries suffer from **wasting – or acute malnutrition** – and **8 million** of these children are **severely wasted**, the deadliest and crippling form of undernutrition.
- ◆ More than **80 percent** of preventable child deaths fall in two regions - **Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia**.
- ◆ Three infectious diseases - **pneumonia, diarrhoea, and malaria** - account for **45% of all deaths** among children under the age of 5 years to be attributed to **pneumonia (19%), diarrhoea (18%), and malaria (8%)**, most preventable with existing vaccines, other preventive tools and medicines.
- ◆ At least **2 out of every 5 children** under 5 years of age (**or 250 million children globally**) are at risk of **poor development** owing to multiple risks in the earliest years and suboptimal investments in nurturing care for **early childhood development**.
- ◆ Currently, there are now 1.8 billion adolescents (10 – 19 years) and youth worldwide, the largest cohort in history, with nearly 9 out of 10 adolescents living in low- and middle-income countries with a lack of access to tailored national policies and programs with matching investments to address their contextual heterogeneous needs for health and well-being, and nearly 1.1 million adolescents are dying each year from preventable causes.
- ◆ Many children and families are forced to stay in **humanitarian crises** in several parts of the world further accentuating their vulnerabilities in terms of survival, health, well-being, and development.

# IPA on behalf of 164 member societies from over 149 countries representing one million pediatricians commits to:



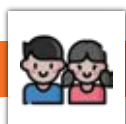
## Pregnancy & Childbirth

1. Insist on stillbirths to be included in all maternal and newborn health reports, policies, investments, and research initiatives providing an integrated programmatic approach to reducing stillbirths within the continuum of care.
2. Support Zero Separation of mothers and babies, and nurturing/respectful care for every newborn.
3. Create a sustainable global network of training and retraining to increase the capacity of front-line health workers in high-risk countries to deliver essential newborn care and care of small or sick newborns/infants.



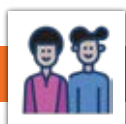
## Under-five Children (1 Month-5 Years)

4. Advocate for the **unfinished agenda of child survival** and support scaling up coverage of select interventions across the continuum of care in countries lagging behind.



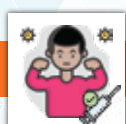
## School-age Children (5-15 Years)

5. Improve preventive care and nutrition counselling for school-age and early adolescent children, advocate for health-promoting schools and school health services, as well as for evidence-based parenting interventions to support caregivers in their capacities to provide age-appropriate responsive care. Address the health care needs of children living with noncommunicable diseases, including diabetes, asthma, and cancer, through early diagnosis and referral, as needed for appropriate care and treatment.



## Late Adolescents (15-19 Years)

6. Provide technical assistance on adolescent health and well-being and promote systematic adoption of strategies and training for pediatricians and other clinicians to improve adolescent health, including adolescent mental health and well-being.
7. Advocate and support for the implementation of culturally sensitive comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education and services as well as appropriate gender norms.
8. Strengthen partnerships at national, regional and global levels to prioritize support and commitments for cohesive programming to deliver for adolescents' well-being in the lead-up to the Global Forum for Adolescents in 2023, and as part of the progress towards achieving the Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Decade of Action 2020 - 2030 .



## Immunization

9. Endorse Immunization Agenda 2030 and the strategy of reaching zero-dose children by advocating for immunization recovery efforts as essential to achieving universal health coverage and increasing coverage of vaccines that target the leading infectious killers of children - pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria.



## Environment & Climate Change

10. Prioritize the protection of children's health from the harmful impacts of climate change and environmental hazards through technical collaboration and knowledge sharing.

11. Create a sustainable global network of training to disseminate the WHO/UNICEF e-learning “Introductory Course on Children’s Environmental Health” and support training thereof.
12. Insist for national and local measures to mitigate the detrimental impacts of climate change on the health of women, children, and adolescents, by promoting appropriate policies, adapting services, and supporting family and community actions to reduce emissions.



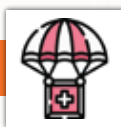
## Promoting Early Child Development through Nurturing Care and Parenting Support

13. Insist on appropriate investments in nurturing care, covering health, nutrition, safety, and security (protection from abuse and neglect), child rights and patient-centered approach of care, responsive caregiving and early learning, starting from conception to at least three years of age to ensure optimal childhood development and contribute towards maximizing human capital of societies and nations.
14. Advocate for healthy Infant and Young Child Feeding practices and prevention of Childhood Obesity through the promotion of evidence-based practices and addressing the harmful effects of marketing breastmilk substitutes and harmful food and beverages.
15. Advocate and support evidence-based parenting interventions to empower caregivers to provide age-appropriate responsive care during childhood and adolescence.



## Quality of Care

16. Insist on improving newborn and pediatric care quality and patient safety and support initiatives on newborn and child death review.
17. Promote access to essential medicines for children and strengthen antimicrobial stewardship in children’s health care delivery systems.



## Children in Humanitarian and Crises Settings

18. Advocate and support initiatives to mitigate the circumstances, risks, and essential service provision for children affected by humanitarian crises and situations. Ensuring that children in humanitarian emergencies are a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

**Reductions in mortality and morbidity call for investment but result in huge savings for families, communities, and nations.**

**IPA, the 112-year-old umbrella organization with 164 member societies from >150 countries representing 1 million pediatricians calls for urgent actions by Governments, International Agencies, Development Partners, CSOs, and Private Sector entities to reach every child and adolescent to address their needs and provide quality health care services.**

**Dr. Enver Hasanoglu,**  
President, IPA

**Dr. Naveen Thacker,**  
President-Elect, IPA

**Dr. Aman Pulungan,**  
Executive Director, IPA

