



## **New global coalition aims to save half a million babies a year from preventable deaths**

**20 September, 2016** – With more than 25 organisations involved, the BabyWASH Coalition is launching today to call for greater collaboration among those working to keep children and women healthy in the first 1,000 days of life\*.

The [BabyWASH Coalition](#) is a five-year initiative comprising organisations across civil society, UN organisations, funders, academics and the private sector. It is focused on increasing essential integration between programming, policy-making and funding in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene; early childhood development; nutrition; and maternal newborn and child health.

Millions of children around the world die each year from preventable causes. The Coalition's members say that half a million children and 30,000 women annually could survive and thrive through better and more integrated approaches to maternal and young child health.

“There is no time more important in a child's life than his or her first 1,000 days,” said Sarina Prabasi, CEO of [WaterAid America](#). “If we are truly committed to making a lifelong impact on the health and wellbeing of children—putting their needs ahead of our own—we must also be committed to an approach that is as integrated and multifaceted as the needs of the children we serve. It is unconscionable that health facilities lack safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene facilities, along with other basic services that can mean the difference between life and death for so many children worldwide. Only by putting the needs of the child first will we be able to deliver fully on the promises of the Sustainable Development Goals, and genuinely support the health of women and children around the world.”

There are, however, many policy, attitudinal, and funding barriers to integration. The coalition aims to leverage its collective strengths to break down these barriers and make a strong case for the benefits and necessity of an effectively integrated approach to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

“All parents want their children to thrive in health, hygiene, education, play and nutrition,” says Kevin Jenkins, CEO of [World Vision International](#). “They want it all, not just a development expert's narrow speciality, and rightly so. The BabyWASH coalition gives us an exciting opportunity to call for and implement effective, integrated approaches to improve a child's well-being during the first 1,000 days of her life.”

The coalition is a direct response to the SDGs' call for increased partnerships and inter-sectoral collaborations, and is in support of the [Every Woman Every Children Global Strategy](#), which has a newly enhanced focus on multi-sector actions to ensure improved health and well-being for every woman, child and adolescent everywhere.

ENDS

*The launch of the BabyWASH Coalition will be in the UN HQ in New York, USA on Tuesday 20 September during the Every Woman Every Child Reception that starts at 6pm. For more information, visit [www.babywashcoalition.org](http://www.babywashcoalition.org) or contact Peter Hynes, BabyWASH Coalition Coordinator at [admin@babywashcoalition.org](mailto:admin@babywashcoalition.org) or on Skype at [peter.hynes5](https://www.skype.com/name/peter.hynes5)*



### Notes to editors

- \*(from pregnancy until the age of 2)
- BabyWASH is how coalition members describe the integration between water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), early childhood development (ECD), nutrition, and maternal newborn and child health (MNCH) interventions to improve child well-being in the first 1000 days. For more about what integrated BabyWASH can achieve visit <http://bit.ly/2c5espa>