

# WHA71: GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN'S, CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENTS' HEALTH (2016–2030): SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

## ITEM 12.

IntraHealth applauds the efforts of WHO and partners in reporting progress on the global strategy to support the needs of women, children, and adolescents. As this year's report notes, data collection regarding women's health can be challenging. To assess progress in the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel—a key indicator of access to primary health care—definitions and measurements must be improved. IntraHealth supports an updated definition of “skilled health personnel,” and works with countries to improve data collection and increase access to skilled birth attendance.

The progress report also brings increased attention to early childhood development, noting that nurturing health care is essential during the formative period of childhood. Health systems and health workers must be enabled to provide nurturing care to newborns, infants, and young children, and provide outreach services to families and caregivers during early childhood.

We laud the efforts of WHO and the United Nations in engaging young people in developing a new strategy on youth, supporting adolescents and young adults to “unleash their potential as positive and active agents of change.” Health systems, clinics, and health workers must not only be “youth-friendly” but also “youth-inviting,” with initiatives developed by young stakeholders. IntraHealth is supporting a youth-led network of youth advocates in West Africa focused on family planning and reproductive health—a model that should be replicated elsewhere.

Finally, a renewed focus on reproductive health and human rights is welcome. As the recently released Lancet-Guttmacher report declares, all stakeholders must commit to a bold and evidence-based agenda for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. IntraHealth encourages WHO and partners to incorporate the recommendations of this report into their strategy to support the rights of all individuals to make decisions about their own bodies and lives.