

# NEWS

*African Science Academy Development Initiative*

Director &

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **AFRICAN SCIENCE ACADEMIES TO RELEASE REPORT ON USING SCIENCE TO SAVE LIVES**

SCIENCE IN ACTION: SAVING THE LIVES OF AFRICA'S MOTHERS, NEWBORNS, AND CHILDREN is being released on Nov. 9 at the fifth annual conference of the African Science Academy Development Initiative (ASADI) in Accra, Ghana. The report, by the national science academies of seven African countries, estimates the number of women, newborns, and children under five in sub-Saharan Africa whose lives could be saved if already well-established, affordable health interventions were scaled up to cover more of the population, and how far that would go in meeting the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals, the target date of which is 2015.

The lives-saved figures in the new report were calculated using modeling software recently developed by an international group of researchers. The report also analyzes the number of lives that could be saved by feasible increases in coverage of select interventions in nine specific countries, as well as the cost of doing so.

ASADI -- a multiyear collaboration among several African science academies, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and others -- aims to strengthen the capacity of the African academies to inform policymaking through evidence-based advice. To that end, SCIENCE IN ACTION also includes recommendations on how scientists and other experts can partner with governments and development agencies to use the latest evidence to make strategic investments in interventions likely to have the most immediate impact on families most in need.

#### **DETAILS FOR REPORTERS:**

The report will be released at a one-hour news conference beginning at 5 p.m. GMT on Nov. 9 at the La Palm Royal Beach hotel, Accra, Ghana. Reporters who wish to obtain an embargoed copy of the report or arrange an interview from abroad, should contact:

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William Kearney, U.S. National Academy of Sciences, +1 202-334-2138 or [wkearney@nas.edu](mailto:wkearney@nas.edu); or Mary Kinney, Saving Newborn Lives/Save the Children, Cape Town, South Africa, +27-21-532-3494/+27-83-444-8211 or [mvkinney@gmail.com](mailto:mvkinney@gmail.com).

THE REPORT IS EMBARGOED AND NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE BEFORE 5 P.M. GMT ON NOV. 9. The report will be posted online at the time of release at <http://national-academies.org/asadi>, where reporters also can find more information on ASADI and the annual conference.

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