

Barcelona, 27th May 2010 – With the U.N. MDG +10 Review Summit in September this year in mind, the Global Movement for Children has commissioned an international survey on child mortality in several developing countries.

In a joint effort with TNS Gallup, the poll aims at getting new insights and input to better understand attitudes and opinions within middle classes and opinion leaders towards child mortality in these countries. The main objective is to gather relevant information to design and implement future policies and actions while assessing the readiness of these groups to take action to further accelerate recent progress in their respective countries.

The poll has been conducted in 8 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, with a special emphasis on Africa: India, Cambodia, Kenya, Mali, Zambia, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Bolivia. Findings for some of these countries have already been submitted while the rest are expected to be completed by the end of June. A global report with the final conclusions will be subsequently produced. The GMC expects to launch the findings in September in the run-up to the MDG + 10 Review Summit.

“The draft report we have at the moment points to some very interesting conclusions, which we expect to confirm with the final report due in mid summer” says Secretary of the GMC’s Board, Denis Caillaux. “Child mortality being such a serious matter, the GMC has put a big effort into this project and we are convinced the final report will reveal extremely useful data for future policies and actions”.

High child mortality rates pose a serious challenge both to child rights organisations and to any country’s social and economic development. An encouraging recent report by The Lancet reveals that from the annual 12 million of under-five deaths in 1990, progress has been made in reducing child mortality to 7,7 million in 2010. Nevertheless, to achieve MDG4 by 2015 - reducing it by 2/3 - within the next 5 years a redoubling of efforts needs to be made in order to cut under-five deaths by another 4 million.