The National Citizens’ Hearing in Mauritania took place on 4 May 2015 as part of World Vision’s Global Week of Action on ending preventable maternal, child and newborn deaths, in partnership with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the television channel El Wataniya. The week of action was officially launched by the Secretary-General representing the Minister of Health of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Participants at the hearing discussed the need to accelerate progress on reducing maternal, child and newborn deaths and to promote reproductive health for adolescents.

The hearing enabled participants to:

- Discuss the maternal and child health-related global goals under negotiation, and the way these will be addressed at the national level.
- Inform the process that aims at developing national accountability mechanisms for maternal and child health in the SDGs.
- Establish a clear action plan for citizens’ participation in global and national accountability mechanisms.
- Feed into the Global Citizens’ Dialogue that took place in the margins of the 2015 World Health Assembly.


**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Ensure the effective implementation of the national health development plan to accelerate progress towards reducing maternal, newborn and child deaths.
- Ensure free access to emergency obstetric care for the most vulnerable.
- Accelerate progress towards reducing maternal, child and newborn deaths in line with the Abuja Declaration (minimum 15% budget line), intersectoral coordination, and decentralisation at regional level.
- Improve coverage of essential health care and ensure equitable access by addressing socioeconomic barriers and effectively implementing subsidies for maternal care.
- Increase the number of health personnel across the country.
- Use monitoring reports to assess the implementation of government commitments.
- Create a coordination committee, led by the Ministry of Health, for all actors engaged in maternal and child health issues including communications.
- Develop a six-month common action plan with the Mauritania Scaling Up Nutrition movement with the objective of increasing the budget allocated to community nutrition.