



Country Countdown – Zambian Experience

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Introduction

- In 2008, Zambia held its first ever Countdown to 2015 for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health.
- **Zambia considered the Countdown as a useful tool** to analyze progress & improve planning for reaching MDGs 4 & 5.



Purpose of CD

- Raise awareness
- Take stock of achievements and bottlenecks
- Identify needed improvements in programmes and budgets
- Strengthen monitoring and tracking of progress.
- Define roles for specific actions needed to reach the health MDGs.
- Enhance key stakeholders and partner commitment.



Preparation/planning

- Formation of the main committee to plan and undertake technical analysis.
- Creation of sub committees to support the main committee. Specific functions/tasks include resource mobilization, publicity, logistics and data/scientific.
- Development and sharing of detailed, costed work plan/budget with all key stakeholders and cooperating partners.



Preparation/planning (2)

- Identification of lead partners to spearhead agreed functions/roles.
- Holding of regular briefing meetings for all stakeholders i.e. govt. ministries, partner agencies and NGOs, to ensure shared commitments for results.



Data content and analysis

- Data collection, analysis, disaggregating and packaging into profiles for both national and sub-national level.
- National profile adapted to include new data from the Demographic and Health Survey, national routine reporting, and provincial-level mortality rates and trends.

Rate of progress in different regions of Zambia

Summary of Progress	Progress towards MDG4	Provinces
No of provinces	3 provinces require to reduce Under five mortality by about 10 deaths /1000LB per year to reach MDG 4 by 2015	Central, North Western, Southern
	3 provinces need to reduce under five mortality rate by 12 deaths /1000LB per years to reach MDG4 by 2015	Copperbelt, Lusaka and Western
	3 provinces need to reduce under five mortality rate by 14 deaths /1000LB per years to reach MDG4 by 2015	Eastern, Luapula and Northern



Data content and analysis (2)

- Data sources included:-
 - Global reports from WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and World Bank;
 - Routine institutional data from Health Management Information System (HMIS), national census, DHS, MIS and Satellite surveys;
 - Programme reviews/reports, NHSP, Joint Annual Reviews; and
 - Sector Advisory Group and annual health sector consultative meeting reports.



Countdown Meeting Participation

Participants were from :-

- ***High level representation*** (Ministers from line ministries, Country Reps of UN agencies and CPs.)
- ***Government***
 - Parliamentarians, line ministries, policy-makers and implementers
- ***Other key stakeholders***
 - Academia, NGOs, media, professional bodies, researchers, private sector



Actions At Sub-National level (1)

- Selected district profiles/situations presented at the CD conference.
- Through CD provincial and district participants had opportunities to improve information sharing and peer-to-peer learning .
- Well-performing districts were recognized and able to showcase their work in specific areas.
- The conference also promoted competition, stimulating districts to improve performance.



Actions At National level

- Creation of a separate budget line in the national budget for RH and commodities.
- Direct entry into School of Midwifery.



CD meeting Outcomes

- ***Actions:***

- Develop action plans and allocate resources for each level, prioritizing MDG 4 & 5 interventions.
- Identify partners from other sectors and involve them in various MNCH committees.
- Intensify community engagement



CD meeting Outcomes (2)

- ***Monitoring:*** The national, provincial, and district levels required to review their data collection formats to include specific MDG 4 & 5 interventions and to report quarterly to senior management of Ministry of Health and partners during the Sector Advisory Group (SAG) meetings.



CD meeting Outcomes (3)

- ***Reporting:*** Report to Inter-agency Coordinating Committee (ICC), Sector Advisory Group (SAG), annual consultative meeting, and M & E technical group.



Key Activities For The Next Country CD – Nov/Dec 2013

- 1. Country CD is not a one time event. It needs to be built into an ongoing process.**
- 2. Zambia will follow the same steps as it ensured a successful CD in 2008, in addition**
- 3. Follow up on recommendations and actions agreed during the last CD Conference.**



Key Activities For The Next Country CD – Nov/Dec 2013

4. Produce detailed national, district and sub-centre-level data for tracking use of community registers, score card, ZDHS, HMIS and desk reviews.
5. CD will take into consideration the work of the Commission of Information & Accountability for women's and Children's Health.

THANK YOU!!!