

## Countdown Working Group on Equity

### Proposed Workplan 2008-11

**Focal points: Cesar Victora & Ties Boerma**

#### WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

*(List the members, what they are expected to contribute, and whether or not they have agreed to participate)*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Expected Contribution</i>	<i>Agreed?</i>
Henrik Axelson Ties Boerma Zulfiqar Bhutta Wendy Graham Kate Kerber Betty Kirkwood Laura Laski Carine Ronsmans Abdelmajid Tibouti Cesar Victora	All members will contribute to the finalization of the workplan, definition of analyses to be carried out, periodic examination of tabulations and interpretation of results, as well as approval of final versions of manuscripts and reports.  Victora and Boerma will be joint focal points, and Victora will directly supervise the analyses and data base maintenance. Axelson will work closely with Boerma and Victora in preparation of the products.	In addition to the focal points, Axelson, Bernstein and Kerber have so far sent comments on the draft proposal.

#### OBJECTIVES AND PRODUCT(S)

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Product</i>
<p>1. Analyses of the most recent DHS or MICS for each Countdown country, by the end of 2009, and updating of these analyses as new surveys become available. These analyses will include calculation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Coverage of a subset of around 10 core Countdown maternal, neonatal and child health interventions, to be defined by the WG</li> <li>b) Coverage gap based on the above interventions</li> <li>c) Co-coverage index for preventive interventions</li> </ul>	<p>1. Report with separate indicator coverage, coverage gap and co-coverage for all Countdown countries with data available.</p>
<p>2. Breakdown of the above indices according to the following stratifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Sex of the child</li> <li>b) Urban/rural residence</li> <li>c) Wealth quintiles</li> <li>d) Main ethnic groups</li> <li>e) Maternal education</li> </ul>	<p>2. Report with tabulations of indicator coverage, coverage gap and co-coverage by the five stratifiers, for inclusion in the overall Countdown report and website.</p>
<p>3. Calculation of summary measures of inequality, including concentration indices, slope index of inequality and relative index of inequality.</p>	<p>3. Input to the Countdown analyses and preparation of a scientific publication describing patterns of inequalities across countries.</p>

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| <p>4. For countries with more than one survey in recent years, analysis of time trends in the summary indicators described in the previous item.</p> <p>5. Comparison of results from DHS and MICS regarding inequalities, with particular emphasis on methods used for estimating asset indices.</p> <p>6. Analyses of how key interventions are clustered at the mother/child level in each country, and interpretation of these results in light of main then delivery strategies used in the country (for example, do countries using campaign approaches have greater concentration of interventions in the same mothers and children?).</p> <p>7. Ecological country level-analyses of associations between (a) different measures of coverage and inequity, and (b) levels of maternal, neonatal and underfive mortality.</p> | <p>4. Report on time trends in inequalities and contribution to the scientific paper mentioned above.</p> <p>5. Technical report to the Countdown core group, to Measure DHS and to UNICEF with suggestions on harmonization of methodologies for equity analyses.</p> <p>6. Contribution to the Countdown analyses and preparation of a scientific paper relating implementation strategies to equity.</p> <p>7. Contribution to the Countdown analyses and preparation of a scientific paper on the link between coverage, equity and impact indicators.</p> |
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#### ACTIVITIES AND PROCESSES

We propose to set up the Countdown Equity Analysis Support Group at the Federal University of Pelotas in Brazil.

In the first year, the most recently available dataset for each Countdown country, (e.g. DHS, MICS or other) will be analyzed. The workplan defined above requires individual analysis of each of the 60+ datasets. This corresponds to objectives 1-3 in the previous section.

In the second year, the further analyses described above will be carried out on the basis of the results from the country analyses. This corresponds to objectives 5-7 in the previous section.

Starting in the second year and continuing in subsequent years, new surveys will be analyzed and incorporated in the database as their datasets become available. As subsequent surveys become available for the same country, time trend analyses in equity indicators (objective 4 in previous section) will be carried out.

A Countdown Equity database will be prepared with the results from the analyses and will be made publicly available in the Countdown website. Individual and family level variables and scores created in the process of analyses will be also made publicly available to other researchers.

#### RESOURCES NEEDED

<i>Description of Cost</i>	<i>Estimated Cost (US\$)</i>
<p><i>Working group meetings</i></p> <p>One physical meeting of the Equity WG per year (9 participants). We suggest that the first meeting should be held in Pelotas, Brazil. We are budgeting for travel for C. Victora and for 4 other WG members who are not supported by their institutions for travel, e.g. academics.</p> <p><i>Specific analyses and consultations</i></p> <p>100% FTE research assistant at the University of Pelotas for database maintenance and basic statistical tabulations.</p> <p>30% FTE for statistician for equity analyses.</p> <p>Consultation on the construction of asset indices and alternative methods for measuring socioeconomic position, to be held in Pelotas just before the first WG meeting.</p>	

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*Support for involvement of individuals who do not have institutional support for Countdown work*

25% FTE of focal point C. Victora

*Other*

Support to computing, communications and data analyses activities at the University of Pelotas

**Total estimated cost of WG activities**

**US\$599,359,00 over 3 yrs**

#### TIME LINE

*Date*

*Milestone or product*

To be defined by Countdown Core Group.

Start of activities is contingent on funding and will run for 3 years after that.