

Countdown Working Group on **Policy and Health Systems**

Focal point: Bernadette Daelmans (CAH/WHO) and Helga Fogstad (Norad)

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>
Yves Bergevin (UNFPA)	Reproductive health	All YES
Geoff Black, (CIDA)	Health systems	
Craig Burgess (GAVI)	Health systems	
Eleonora Cavagnero(WHO)	Health financing	
Mickey Chopra, (MRC/RSA)	Health systems	
Giorgio Cometto (STC,UK)	Health systems, child and newborn	
B.Daelmans (CAH/WHO)	Child health	
Vincent Fauveau (UNFPA)	Maternal and reproductive health	
Helga Fogstad (Norad)	Health systems and maternal health	
Lynn Freedman(AMDD, CU/US)	Health systems and maternal health	
Neeru Gupta (WHO)	Human resources	
Julia Hussein, (IMMPACT)	Health systems and maternal health	
Monir Islam (MPS/WHO)	Maternal and newborn health	
Dan Kraushaar (BMGF)	Health systems	
Liz Mason (CAH/WHO)	Child health	
Zoe Matthews, (SUniv, UK)	Maternal health	
Barbara McPake, (QMU)	Health systems and financing	
Robert Scherpbier (WHO)	Health systems and child health	
Anuraj Shankar (WHO)	Maternal and newborn health	
Nancy Terreri (independent)	Maternal and child health	
Mark Young (UNICEF)	Child health	
David Sanders, (UWC, RSA)	Health systems, nutrition	
Naomi Cassirer, ILO	Maternity protection	

OBJECTIVES AND PRODUCT(S)

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Product</i>
1. To maintain and update the data base on policy and health systems (P&HS) indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of indicators for tracking in 2009 agreed • Indicator definitions reviewed and refined • Questionnaires developed and shared with countries through partners agencies • Updated indicator values for the African and Asia-Pacific Region compiled by UNICEF in 2008 shared and used • Coordination on selected indicators with relevant task forces and partners maintained • Data base developed and maintained. Focal point: WHO/CAH/HQ

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<p>2. To analyze and report the findings on the P&HS indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical framework to assess relationship between policy adoption, implementation and coverage in selected countries developed • Indicator data and analytical findings published in Countdown report 2010 and in a peer-review journal
<p>3. To increase country ownership and commitment as it relates to the P&HS indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy brochure on the rationale for tracking P&HS indicators, and key results from 2008 developed • Findings of the Countdown 2008 presented at key global, regional and national meetings • Collaboration with other working groups on inter-country consultations in 2010 prior to publication of the final Countdown report maintained

ACTIVITIES AND PROCESSES

Re: **Objective 1:** To maintain and update the data base on P&HS indicators

1. Maintain regular contact on the progress in implementing this work plan and to coordinate tasks
Process: Periodic teleconferences
2. Review the indicators tracked in the 2007, decide on any adjustments for 2009, and refine indicator definitions. Generate the questionnaire **Process:** face-to-face meeting in conjunction with next core group meeting
3. Field test the questionnaire selected countries through country offices and validate data. Refine the questionnaire **Process:** Working group members mobilize institutional resources .
4. Collect data in 68 countries and compile the data base **Process:** Direct communication with regional and country offices of multiple partners
5. Work with various Task Forces (e.g, Zinc Task Force, GAPP, AMDD) to complete and validate the data. **Process:** Virtual coordination

Re: **Objective 2:** To analyze and report the findings on the P&HS indicators

1. Identify in consultation with the larger Countdown core team possible themes for further analysis, in particular on the relation of the policy environment with implementation and coverage. **Process:** teleconference and face-to-face contacts opportunities
2. Develop proposal for in-depth analysis and commission the work **Process:** Virtual review and consensus on proposal. Contracting through most suitable partner
3. Write-up the findings for publication in the Countdown report and in a peer-reviewed journal in 2010 .
Process: Virtual communication and one face-to-face meeting of critical mass of WH members

Re; **Objective 3:** To increase country ownership and commitment as it relates to the P&HS indicators

1. Develop, reproduce and disseminate a brochure on the rational for tracking policy and health system indicators, the indicators selected in 2008 and the implications of the results. **Process:** One WG member takes the lead in preparing and publishing, receives inputs through virtual communication
2. Work within our institutions and with partners to highlight the findings of the 2008 Countdown, during global, regional and country meetings. Make and maintain an inventory of upcoming events.
Process: WG members to act within their institutions. PowerPoint version of the Countdown 2008 presentation on policies circulated to all WG members.

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3. Participate with the other working groups in convening inter-country consultations to discuss draft country profiles prior to next Countdown global event. **Process:** Steering team to take leadership

RESOURCES NEEDED

<i>Description of Cost</i>	<i>Estimated Cost (US\$)</i>
• Participation of WG chairs (2) and selected WG members (3) in Countdown planning meetings. Three meetings to coordinate among the working groups and in particular with the coverage group. Average cost per individual US\$ 4,000.	US\$ 60,000
• Specific analyses (commissioned work)	US\$ 40,000
• Face-to-face meetings of the Working Group. Two meetings	US\$ 50,000
• Participation in consultations on country profiles prior to next global Countdown event (3 intercountry meetings, 2 persons)	US\$ 30,000
• Development and publication of brochure on policy and health system indicators	US\$ 20,000
Total estimated cost of WG activities	US\$ 200,000

TIME LINE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Milestone or product</i>
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4 th quarter 2008	<p>Re: Objective 1: To maintain and update the data base on P&HS indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators reviewed, future indicators agreed, indicator definitions refined. Questionnaire generated and improved data collection methods developed. • P&HS questionnaire and data collection methods pilot tested before wider dissemination to countries through WHO and other UN agencies. • Questionnaire circulated to countries and data collection completed .
2 nd quarter 2009	
3 rd quarter 2009	
4 st quarter 2009	
1 st quarter 2009	<p>Re: Objective 2: To analyze and report the findings on the P&HS indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes for further analysis identified by working group and in consultation with large Countdown group. • TORs for additional analytic work developed and contracted-out
1 st quarter 2009	
4 th quarter 2009	
1 st quarter 2010	
4 th quarter 2008	<p>Re; Objective 3: To increase country ownership and commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countdown 2008 presentations made available in PowerPoint. Brochure on Countdown indicator developed. • Countdown 2008 data and publications promoted, disseminated and used in dialogue with Governments and partners. • Inter-country consultations on draft profiles
On-going	
2 nd quarter 2010	

CONCERNS OR ASSISTANCE NEEDED FROM COUNTDOWN CORE GROUP

Important to keep clear links with other Working Groups, in particular the coverage working group. Communication not only through interaction of chairpersons but also through the Countdown core team. Facilitation of free flow of ideas among all concerned and interested parties by Steering Team.