

A Country Countdown Zambian Story

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BACKGROUND



- Countdown to 2015 is a global initiative that tracks global and national progress towards the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5.
- Focuses on coverage of effective interventions for maternal, newborn and child survival.
- Reports on 75 priority countries which account for more than 95% of maternal and child mortality worldwide.

At country level countdown

- Analyzes country-level coverage & trends for interventions proven to reduce maternal, newborn and child health. (Intervention coverage)
- Tracks indicators for policies and health system strength, financial flows and equity.

- Identifies knowledge and data gaps across the reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health continuum of care.
- Build a common vision and strategies towards the attainment of the MDGs.
- Advocates to policy makers at national and international level.

CD AS POWERFUL INSTRUMENT

In Zambia we used CD as an important mechanism for:-

- In-country mechanism to take stock of achievements and bottlenecks
- Identifying areas and population groups that required more attention
- Monitoring progress towards meeting health-related MDGs

- Identify and address **gaps in coverage and quality of care** along the continuum of care for RMNCH
- Translating data into action and stimulating national & sub national actions
- Increase resource allocations for RMNCH to ensure that interventions and programs were sufficiently funded

WHY HOLD COUNTRY CD

- A Country Countdown raised the profile of the health related MDGs
- Helped define roles for specific actions needed to reach the health MDGs.
- Facilitated engagement of partners and enhanced the commitment and accountability of all key stakeholders

INVOLVING POLICY-MAKERS (1)

The CD provided an opportunity to engage parliamentarians to:

- Advocate and influence development and implementation of supportive policies and legislation for RMNCH.
- Support initiatives for investments that save lives.

INVOLVING POLICY-MAKERS (2)

- Influence increase in allocation of resources for RMNCH in national budgets.
- Monitor and track in-country progress on the MDGs.

INVOLVING POLICY-MAKERS (3)



- We used Parliamentarians as champions of RMNCH issues and encourage them to engage fellow leaders through strategic one-to-one discussions to support RMNCH.
- We also used Parliamentarians in the following strategies;
 - Community dialogue (village meetings)
 - Discussions with traditional leaders
 - Participate in high visibility events and commemorations

COUNTRY-LEVEL BENEFITS (1)

- Through CD provincial and district participants got opportunities to improve information sharing and peer-to-peer learning .
- Well-performing districts got recognized and were able to showcase their work in specific areas.
- The CD also promoted competition, stimulating districts to improve performance.

COUNTRY-LEVEL BENEFITS (2)

The Country countdown facilitated;

- Capacity building in data collection, analysis, disaggregating and packaging into profiles for both national and sub-national level.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT

- Strong leadership from the senior level of the Ministry of Health is required.
- Adequate time for preparations/planning needed
- Development of a shared costed, detailed work plan and budget a priority
- Regular follow ups to ensure pledges to support the CD are fulfilled before the holding the conference.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT (2)

- The process should be inclusive and consultative.
- Countdown conferences should be planned and budgeted for in national budgets.
- Partners should include Countdown process in their work plans and allocate resources.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT (3)

- Decision-makers **should be** represented in committees to ensure fulfilment of commitments in terms of resources and assignments
- **Media engagement** throughout the whole process. Media contacts can serve as allies and early involvement helps to raise the profile of the process and sensitize the public.
- **High-level ownership** by Government (MOH and MCDMCH) is critical to rally partner support and participation.

OUR CHILDREN, OUR INVESTMENT



THANK YOU!