



THE GHANA RMNCH SCORECARD

Background

A Call to Action

Ghana has seen a fall in under-five mortality from 128 per 1000 live births (in 1990) to 72 (in 2013), but this is still short of their MDG 4 target (43)¹. Maternal mortality (380 per 100,000 live births) has also dropped from 1990 levels (760), but again the country is yet to reach the MDG 5 target of 190. Building on this progress will be a challenge, as Ghana transitions to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country is set to significantly improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes as it continues to address the challenges facing health services.

The Response

Ghana introduced the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Management (RMNCH) Tool as an accountability mechanism designed to enhance transparency and action on priority RMNCH interventions. Ghana developed the RMNCH scorecard for accountability and action towards the end of 2014, to enhance national and regional performance.

In May 2015, the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service (GHS) convened a 10 day exercise to identify opportunities to further strengthen the impact of Ghana's RMNCH scorecard management tool. With the support of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) and country partners (UNICEF, USAID, WHO, JHPIEGO and UNFPA); information was collected through discussions, questionnaires and sharing of documentation and processes at national and regional Ministry of Health levels. At national level, this included interaction with the Honorable Deputy Minister, Director-General, various programme directors & managers, M&E/Planning staff and country partners. At regional level, regional and district health information officers and programme supervisors.

¹http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/2014Report/Ghana_Country_Profile_2014.pdf

Progress

To accelerate progress, RMNCH scorecards have been issued each quarter since they were launched. The strength of the country's DHIS2 has been the driving force for enhanced programme reporting, data completeness and data quality. As a result there is strong emphasis on the use of data in decision-making at all levels.

Strengths of the Ghana RMNCH scorecard

- GHS has secured the full support of its directorates and the Director General. Furthermore, the RMNCH scorecard tool is accessible to a wide array of stakeholders down to district level including development partners.
- Subnational teams have harnessed existing partner support by specifically requesting support from them for scorecard training at regional/district level teams to ensure that the management tool is used at all levels to drive decision-making.
- There is unprecedented use of the online Action Tracker feature from national to district-level. Following regular reviews, action items are created and status updates provided by regional and district focal points.
- GHS successfully implemented a series of regional training programmes (with the support of partners), with follow-up visits ongoing.
- GHS has introduced a checklist to guide GHS during their RMNCH scorecard monitoring process. It assesses the level of access to and use of the scorecard by regional and district teams. In addition it strengthens RMNCH indicator data and scorecard use.

During the Q1 2015 DHMT review meeting, use of the scorecard identified significant drop-out rates related to measles and PENTA2 vaccination coverage. An action plan was drawn for a mop-up exercise to increase coverage. The disease control team provided necessary logistics for the activity.

Future actions

- To build on this success, GHS will expand use to political levels, Civil Society Organizations and Regional Coordination Council teams and also secure funding for expanding staff in-service training. The piloting of expanded access to sub-district level in the Upper West region will also be undertaken.
- GHS will identify opportunities for closer collaboration with MOH (and its structures such as teaching hospitals, private and mission hospitals). It plans to formally launch the scorecard and engage the newly appointed Minister of Health.

- GHS will identify an appropriate forum with partners to discuss action items that partners could take responsibility for tracking and also use to prioritise their funding.
- The Director General, GHS will explore the development of a quarterly GHS bulletin to publish the scorecard and summarize performance in the regions.

Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require a consistent focus on accountability and results at all levels. The scorecard provides a strong foundation for Ghana to build on as it transitions from the MDGs to the SDGs.