



# THE MADAGASCAR RMNCH SCORECARD

## Background

### A Call to Action

While Madagascar has not yet achieved MDG4, the country has made significant progress with a reduction in under-five mortality from 160.8 (in 1990) to 56.0 (in 2013). Madagascar has also reduced maternal mortality since 1990, but the progress towards achieving MDG 5 lags, with a reduction in maternal mortality ratio to 440 (in 2013) from 740 (in 1990)<sup>1</sup>. As Madagascar shifts to the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, the challenge will be to continue to build upon the great success in reducing child mortality while increasing efforts towards improving universal coverage and access to maternal health.

### The Response

Madagascar introduced an RMNCH (SRMNI) Management Tool as an accountability mechanism designed to enhance transparency and action on priority RMNCH interventions that will lead to rapid progress towards the MDG targets. Madagascar has been using the tool since April 2014. The Ministry of Public Health (Ministère de La Santé Publique) convened a 1.5-week exercise to identify opportunities to strengthen the impact of Madagascar's RMNCH management tool, from 18-27 March 2015. The exercise was supported by USAID and the African Leaders' Malaria Alliance (ALMA), a forum of African heads of state and government, and key development partners, including UNICEF, WHO, and UNFPA. The ALMA team conducted interviews with the Honorable Minister, Secretary General (Secrétaire General), Director-General, Programme Managers and Programme staff, and relevant Development Partners. In addition, the ALMA team had discussions with regional and district medical officers and programme supervisors from one region and two districts.

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<sup>1</sup> MDG Country Progress Snapshot: Madagascar.

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2014/Snapshots/MDG.pdf>

## Progress

The RMNCH (SRMNI) scorecard has been regularly updated and published each quarter since its development. The RMNCH scorecard roll-out plan – under implementation in 2015 – will embed the tool into existing Ministry of Public Health management processes and accountability and action frameworks, including support supervision, regular meetings, and systematic documentation and tracking of action points. Also in 2015, the country will expand beyond developing the national quarterly scorecard to also developing regional-level scorecards with district data to ensure accelerated action and results at community level.

## Strengths of the Madagascar RMNCH Scorecard

- The RMNCH (SRMNI) scorecard has been regularly discussed in key meetings, including the annual reproductive, maternal, and child health coordination meeting (reunion du coordination SRMI), during which central and regional level staff analyze indicators and make recommendations for improvements.
- The scorecard is posted publically and this public site has been shared widely with programmes and partners within Madagascar.
- The country has developed a costed action plan for regional scorecard roll-out and launch, which includes specific deadlines and responsible programmes within the Ministry.

Bottleneck analysis at all levels has supported the identification of programme synergies. In one district, identification that the rate of child immunization was high whilst the rate of postpartum care was low led the district to consider using early childhood vaccination opportunities to provide postpartum care for mother and child.

## Future actions

To speed up both action and results, the Ministry of Health committed to the following actions:

- The launch and roll-out of regional RMNCH (SRMNI) scorecards, including training of all regions and districts on scorecard analysis and use of the web platform
- The formation of an RMNCH (SRMNI) scorecard steering committee, which will convene semi-annually to analyze the scorecard, develop action items, and re-visit next wave indicators

- The creation of user accounts for regional and district administrators, which will provide them with access to the RMNCH (SRMNI) scorecard web platform
- Inclusion of the scorecard in quarterly meetings held at central level where bottleneck analyses will be done and appropriate actions identified

## Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will require a consistent focus on accountability and results at all levels. The Madagascar RMNCH scorecard is an integrated, action-oriented accountability mechanisms linking existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, whilst providing a senior management-level perspective to enable decision-making, accountability, and action across key RMNCH issues, including child survival, reproductive and maternal health, and nutrition.

By tracking and reporting on intervention implementation and identifying bottlenecks both nationally and sub-nationally around the country's RMNCH priorities, the Madagascar RMNCH scorecard will provide a strong foundation upon which the country can strengthen mechanisms for action and accountability towards achieving the SDGs.