Background

A Call to Action

The Mozambique under-five mortality rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio have declined impressively from 233 (1990) to 90 (2013) per 1000 births and 1,300 (1990) to 480 (2013) per 100,000 live births, respectively\(^1\). Although Mozambique may fall short of achieving MDG 5 (330 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births), it is on track to achieve its MDG4 target of 78 under-five deaths per 1,000 births. The country is committed to building on these gains as focus shifts from MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Response

Mozambique introduced the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) Scorecard as an accountability and action management tool to enhance accountability and drive action to improve performance for RMNCH in 2013. The Ministry of Health of Mozambique convened a one-week exercise to identify opportunities to further strengthen the impact of their RMNCH scorecard and management tool in May 2015. The exercise was supported by A Promise Renewed secretariat and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), a forum of African Heads of State and Government, as well as local development partners. Information was collected through desk review, questionnaires group discussions and sharing of documentation and processes at national, provincial and district levels. At national level this included meetings with the Deputy Directors (Planning and Coordination and Public Health), department heads and staff (M&E and Department of Information System), programme managers and staff and partners (UNICEF, WHO and USAID). In the regions and districts visited, this included senior management and officers responsible for the health information systems.

Progress
The first scorecard of Quarter 4 of 2013 was produced, shared and discussed at national level. Staffing changes in the MOH Department of Information System (DIS) led to a gap in capacity for the scorecard production which resulted in interruptions in its use. During the support strengthening mission staff from the DIS and M&E units were given hands on training in the management of the scorecard tool and there was renewed commitment from the M&E and RMNCH programs to ensure continuous production and use of the scorecard at national level and future roll-out to the provincial level.

Strengths of the Mozambique RMNCH Scorecard
- The Ministry of Health has developed a strong data quality check and feedback mechanism which ensures that high quality reliable data that feeds into the scorecard.
- There is an institutionalized mechanism for communication between RMNCH programs at central level and provincial level into which discussions related to issues identified by the scorecard fit.
- The RMNCH programs at central level are committed to strengthening the use of the scorecard at national and sub-national level.

Future actions
- The scorecard review will be introduced as a standing agenda item for appropriate program meetings to be agreed upon by the programs. Ministry officials aim to have the scorecard fully embedded into management mechanisms by the end of 2015.
- The Ministry has committed to supporting the strengthening of the use of the scorecard at provincial later this year, guided by experiences and lessons learned at national level. After the use of the scorecard is successfully institutionalized at national and provincial level, the ministry will embark on expanding its use to the district level.
- The M&E department will widen access to the web tool with emphasis on program staff and senior MOH management.
Staff of the Directorate of Planning and Coordination will orient other Ministry personnel on the functionality and management of the scorecard web platform tool and assign responsibilities for regular production of the scorecard to prevent future interruptions in the production of the scorecard.

Conclusion
The RMNCH scorecard provides Mozambique with a strong foundation to build on as it transitions from the MDGs to the SDGs which will require increased focus on accountability and results in maternal and child health at all levels.