



# THE NAMIBIA RMNCH SCORECARD

## Background

### A Call to Action

While Namibia has not yet achieved MDG 5, the country has made significant progress in reducing maternal mortality. Since 1990, maternal mortality has decreased from 320 to 130 (in 2013). Under-five mortality rates in Namibia have also fallen, from 73.6 (in 1990) to 49.8 (in 2013)<sup>1</sup>, however this progress does not put the country on track to meet MDG 4. As Namibia shifts to the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, the country must make efforts to build upon these achievements, specifically with regard to universal coverage and access for mothers and children.

### The Response

The Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) Scorecard is a country owned country led accountability and action management tool to enhance accountability and drive action to improve performance for RMNCH. It enables countries to easily track and compare performance sub-nationally for priority indicators, while enhancing performance transparency, strengthening accountability and encouraging action. The RMNCH scorecard tool was launched in Namibia in September 2014. In March 2015, the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS) convened a mission to identify opportunities to strengthen the use and impact of Namibia's RMNCH scorecard management tool. The African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), supported the exercise in partnership with UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO.

## Progress

The first RMNCH scorecard produced in April 2014 was shared with top management of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. It was presented and discussed at the Ministerial Management Meeting. Since the initial training on the RMNCH web platform in April 2014, staffing changes within the Epidemiology Unit, which is responsible for

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<sup>1</sup> MDG Country Progress Snapshot: Namibia

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

updating the scorecard, created a gap in capacity for regular updating of the scorecard. During the March 2015 support strengthening mission, a core team of current staff from the Epidemiology Unit were given hands-on training in the web platform, with emphasis on the production of scorecards, which will enable them to retroactively populate scorecards from Q1-Q4 of 2014 as well as update future scorecards. Additionally, programme officers from the Division of Family Health were oriented on how to access and review RMNCH scorecards.

## Strengths of the Namibia RMNCH scorecard

- Data for indicators updated quarterly in the scorecard comes from the routine health information system
- Wave 2 indicators are being reviewed for inclusion in the routine data collection system as the Ministry of Health and Social Services migrates to DHIS2 for health information management.

## Future actions

Senior Ministry of Health management has committed:

- Through the Epidemiology Unit, to produce four scorecards for the 2014 calendar year and share this with the Regional Health Management Teams by Q3 of 2015.
- To expand the scorecard to include district level data on performance indicators and therefore produce regional RMNCH scorecards
- To introduce the scorecard to regional and district health managers through existing quarterly convened by MOHSS, and to train them to use the management tool to review performance and track corrective actions taken
- To make the scorecard an agenda item at the Ministerial Management Meeting at national level, and at Regional and District level Health Management Meetings where the scorecards will be presented for review and discussion.
- To strengthen data quality through close collaboration with the National Statistics Agency, and in partnership with UNFPA, and WHO
- Together with MNCH partners, to strengthen the transparent and regular use of the scorecard and accountability mechanism in the country to ensure the country achieves its stated goals

## Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will require consistent focus on accountability and results at all levels. The Namibia 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 Namibia RMNCH scorecard will provide a strong foundation upon which the country can strengthen mechanisms for action and accountability towards achieving the SDGs.