



# THE SENEGAL RMNCH SCORECARD

## Background

### A call to Action

Senegal has seen a fall in under-five mortality from 142 per 1000 live births (in 1990) to 60 (in 2013), but this is still short of achieving their MDG 4 target (47)<sup>1</sup>. Maternal mortality (320 per 100,000 live births) has also dropped from 1990 levels (520), but again the country is yet to reach the MDG 5 target of 130. Building on this progress will be a challenge, as Senegal transitions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### The Response

Senegal introduced a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Management (RMNCH) Scorecard Tool as an accountability mechanism designed to enhance transparency and action on priority RMNCH interventions. Senegal developed the RMNCH scorecard for accountability and action at the end of 2013, to enhance national and regional performance.

In March 2015, the Ministry of Health and Social Action (MSAS) convened a 2-week exercise to identify opportunities to further strengthen the impact of Senegal's RMNCH scorecard management tool. With the support of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), and partners (WHO, UNICEF, USAID, UNFPA and IntraHealth); 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 Minister, Permanent Secretary (Director-General), various programme directors & managers, M&E/Planning staff and country partners. At regional level, regional and district medical officers and programme supervisors.

## Progress

In spite of previous data availability challenges, MSAS has been rolling out DHIS2 nationwide since 2014 to enhance programme reporting, data completeness, and the use

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<sup>1</sup>[http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/2014Report/Senegal\\_Country\\_Profile\\_2014.pdf](http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/2014Report/Senegal_Country_Profile_2014.pdf)

of data in decision-making. During this transition to DHIS2, the country has used a separate Excel-based template at district and regional levels to collect data to populate the RMNCH scorecard. The use of DHIS2 has significantly strengthened data quality, collection and use for scorecard production and avoids duplication in data management systems.

## Strengths of the Senegal RMNCH scorecard

- The strong level of engagement of sub-national level in the RMNCH scorecard production process, enhances awareness, understanding and ownership of the scorecard at all levels. In particular, data validation is enhanced through this two way dialogue.
- The regions hold quarterly review meetings with districts to track progress and to validate data. Districts hold monthly meetings for data verification and validation. Summaries from these meetings include among other items challenges and action points which follow a standard format for presentation.
- The use of the scorecard to drive action and decision-making, demonstrates that the use of performance tracking management tools is embedded in all levels of the Ministry structure.

The scorecard is presented and discussed in regular meetings of the Ministry of Health at national level, including the Internal Monitoring Committee with the Honourable Minister of Health to review RMNCH

## Future actions

- Expanded access to the RMNCH scorecard web platform down to zonal and district levels for further decentralization of the scorecard, capacity strengthening of staff and broader ownership.
- Development of a guide to provide users with additional guidance on the stepwise analysis of the scorecard (by national & regional perspectives, and also by category and indicator).
- Strengthening data quality and completeness by further regional sensitization around the scorecard.
- Zonal trainings to train regions and districts on the scorecard tool and web platform. Trainees will include the district medical officer and reproductive health coordinator.

- Enhanced training on the tool's accountability and action section to further encourage action and response to address underperforming districts and indicators.
- Follow up with technical partners committed to using the scorecard to allocate resources and target technical assistance.
- Making use of the Action Tracker functionality as it would strengthen overall follow-up and accountability for management meeting actions.
- Update the next version of the scorecard with revised indicators following a review by ministry programmes and partners.
- Undertake an evaluation of the impact of the scorecard.

## 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 Senegal to build on as it transitions from the MDGs to the SDGs.