



# THE SIERRA LEONE RMNCH SCORECARD

## Background

### A Call to Action

Sierra Leone has seen a fall in under-five mortality from 257 per 1000 live births (in 1990) to 182 (in 2013), but this is still short of achieving their MDG 4 target (86)<sup>1</sup>. Maternal mortality (1100 per 100,000 live births) has also dropped from 1990 levels (2300), but again the country is yet to reach the MDG 5 target of 580. Building on this progress will be a challenge, as Sierra Leone transitions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### The Response

Sierra Leone 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. The country developed the RMNCH scorecard for accountability and action towards the end of 2013 to enhance national and regional performance.

In October 2015, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) convened a 1-week exercise to identify opportunities to strengthen the impact of Sierra Leone's RMNCH scorecard management tool. With the support of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), and partners (WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA), information was collected through discussions, questionnaires and sharing of documentation and processes at national MOHS level. This included interaction with the Honorable Deputy Minister, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, various programme directors & managers, M&E/Planning staff and country partners.

### Progress

Use of the RMNCH scorecard stalled following its initial development, due to both the Ebola crisis and to high staff turnover. Whilst this limits the number of best practices to date, the strong level of engagement of the leadership of MOHS with the programmes and partners in re-initiating the scorecard tool's use has enhanced awareness, understanding and ownership at all levels. ALMA provided additional training to introduce and orient the new

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<sup>1</sup>[http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/2014Report/SierraLeone\\_Country\\_Profile\\_2014.pdf](http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/2014Report/SierraLeone_Country_Profile_2014.pdf)

technical team and MOHS programme officers on the objectives and functionalities of the scorecard management tool.

## Strengths of the Sierra Leone RMNCH scorecard

- Senior Ministry staff are committed to expanding availability and integrating use of the RMNCH scorecard at national, regional and district levels.
- MOHS programmes, senior management and country development partners are committed to enhancing the use of the scorecard for increased transparency, accountability and action.
- Drawing from the experiences of other countries, the MOHS is committed to using the scorecard to advocate for technical assistance and resources.

## Future actions

- The MOHS has committed to regular publication of the scorecard and will ensure the population of scorecards for 2015 by end of November 2015. They will also back-populate scorecards for 2013 and 2014 in order to gain insight into how health services have fared during the pre- and post-Ebola periods.
- The MOHS will identify appropriate fora for reviewing the scorecard to ensure its use is embedded at all levels. Furthermore, the MOHS will also identify a forum to share the scorecard with partners. They are committed to ensuring alignment with revised strategic plans and have proposed periodic review of the RMNCH scorecard during Presidential Recovery Plan meetings.
- In light of the President's renewed commitment to the RMNCH agenda, the MOHS will follow-up on WHO's proposal to publish the scorecard on the WHO country webpage.
- Ministry personnel will be trained on the functionality and management of the scorecard web platform tool in order to facilitate adoption of the tool into management processes
- To strengthen data quality, a plan for regional sensitisation around the scorecard and data timeliness/completeness will be developed and a country partner identified to support this activity.

MOHS leadership and partners recommended institutionalising the use of the RMNCH scorecard to support post-Ebola response prioritisation of resources and guiding of decision making for Maternal and Child Health services.

- The MOHS will convene a consultation (before the end of October 2015) with stakeholders to review the RMNCH scorecard indicators, which were selected in 2013, and if necessary develop a revised version 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 Sierra Leone to build on as it transitions from the MDGs to the SDGs.