



# THE UGANDA RMNCH SCORECARD

## Background

### A Call to Action

Uganda has made remarkable progress in reducing maternal and child mortality over the last two decades. Between 1990 and 2013, the maternal mortality ratio declined from 780 to 360 deaths per 100,000 live births, while under-five mortality declined from 178 to 66 deaths per 1000 births. Although Uganda falls short of achieving its MDG5 target of less than 200 maternal deaths per 100,000 births, it has achieved its MDG 4 target of less than 59 under-five deaths per 1000. The country is committed to building on this progress as focus shifts from the MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### The Response

Uganda introduced the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) Scorecard as a management tool to enhance accountability and drive action to improve performance of RMNCH priorities in October 2014. The Ministry of Health of Uganda convened a two-week exercise to identify opportunities to further strengthen the impact of their RMNCH scorecard and management tool in September 2015. The exercise was supported by the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), a forum of African Heads of State and Government. Information was collected through interviews and group discussions, document reviews and questionnaires administered at national level. This included meetings with MOH senior managers, RMNCH programme heads, the MOH advisor on e-Health, development partners (UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA) and a meeting with civil society stakeholders who have partnered with the MOH piloting the RMNCH scorecard.

### Progress

The MOH and its partners have focused on rooting the scorecard at subnational level. Regional level workshops have been held to understand the perspectives of the scorecard at that level, while UNICEF has supported piloting of the scorecard at district level. The district level pilots have covered thirteen districts and include in-depth scorecard discussions with all district stakeholders and identification of ideal accountability mechanisms at that

level. During the support strengthening mission, the MOH and its key partners committed to rolling out the scorecard to all districts and strengthening the use and impact of the scorecard at national level.

## Strengths of the Uganda RMNCH Scorecard

- The MOH's bottom-up approach to developing Uganda's RMNCH scorecard, focusing on regional and district level, has ensured broad participation and buy-in at all levels.
- Involvement of civil society in this scorecard development process, particularly at district level, is expected to increase social accountability and community engagement and action around the scorecard
- In two of the scorecard pilot districts, UNICEF is supporting integration of a systematic bottleneck analysis into the existing scorecard mechanism.
- The scorecard is being integrated into Uganda's DHIS2 system through the MOH's Resource Centre. This integration will streamline the process of generating and updating RMNCH scorecards.
- The district-level scorecard pilot has emphasized capacity building among district-level biostatisticians and HMIS officers in creation and interpretation of the scorecard tool and also in action planning.

## Future actions

- The MOH will introduce the scorecard discussion into key review meetings at national level including the Maternal and Child Health Technical Working Group meeting.
- The MOH is committed to rolling out the scorecard to all districts. The MOH senior management will explore using funding from their UN Life Saving Commodities grant for this purpose. The scale up to other districts is expected to begin in early 2016, after the current pilot (13 districts) is completed.
- The MOH plans to integrate the RMNCH scorecard into their Global Financing Facility tracking mechanisms
- The MOH senior management has defined clear responsibilities at MOH level to support enhanced use of the scorecard at all levels. Further, the scorecard will be shared regularly with MOH top management.

## Conclusion

The RMNCH scorecard provides Uganda 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.