Country Countdown – Zambian Experience

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Introduction

• In 2008, Zambia held its first ever Countdown to 2015 for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health.

• Zambia considered the Countdown as a useful tool to analyze progress & improve planning for reaching MDGs 4 & 5.
Purpose of CD

– Raise awareness
– Take stock of achievements and bottlenecks
– Identify needed improvements in programmes and budgets
– Strengthen monitoring and tracking of progress.
– Define roles for specific actions needed to reach the health MDGs.
– Enhance key stakeholders and partner commitment.
Preparation/planning

• Formation of the main committee to plan and undertake technical analysis.

• Creation of sub committees to support the main committee. Specific functions/tasks include resource mobilization, publicity, logistics and data/scientific.

• Development and sharing of detailed, costed work plan/budget with all key stakeholders and cooperating partners.
Preparation/planning (2)

• Identification of lead partners to spearhead agreed functions/roles.

• Holding of regular briefing meetings for all stakeholders i.e. govt. ministries, partner agencies and NGOs, to ensure shared commitments for results.
Data content and analysis

• Data collection, analysis, disaggregating and packaging into profiles for both national and sub-national level.

• National profile adapted to include new data from the Demographic and Health Survey, national routine reporting, and provincial-level mortality rates and trends.
## Rate of progress in different regions of Zambia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Progress</th>
<th>Progress towards MDG4</th>
<th>Provinces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No of provinces</td>
<td>3 provinces require to reduce under five mortality by about 10 deaths /1000LB per year to reach MDG 4 by 2015</td>
<td>Central, North Western, Southern</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 provinces need to reduce under five mortality rate by 12 deaths /1000LB per years to reach MDG4 by 2015</td>
<td>Copperbelt, Lusaka and Western</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3 provinces need to reduce under five mortality rate by 14 deaths /1000LB per years to reach MDG4 by 2015</td>
<td>Eastern, Luapula and Northern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data content and analysis (2)

- Data sources included:
  - Global reports from WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and World Bank;
  - Routine institutional data from Health Management Information System (HMIS), national census, DHS, MIS and Satellite surveys;
  - Programme reviews/reports, NHSP, Joint Annual Reviews; and
  - Sector Advisory Group and annual health sector consultative meeting reports.
Countdown Meeting Participation

Participants were from:-

- **High level representation** (Ministers from line ministries, Country Reps of UN agencies and CPs.)

- **Government**
  - Parliamentarians, line ministries, policy-makers and implementers

- **Other key stakeholders**
  - Academia, NGOs, media, professional bodies, researchers, private sector
• Selected district profiles/situations presented at the CD conference.

• Through CD provincial and district participants had opportunities to improve information sharing and peer-to-peer learning.

• Well-performing districts were recognized and able to showcase their work in specific areas.

• The conference also promoted competition, stimulating districts to improve performance.
Actions At National level

• Creation of a separate budget line in the national budget for RH and commodities.

• Direct entry into School of Midwifery.
CD meeting Outcomes

• **Actions:**
  
  – Develop action plans and allocate resources for each level, prioritizing MDG 4 & 5 interventions.
  
  – Identify partners from other sectors and involve them in various MNCH committees.
  
  – Intensify community engagement
CD meeting Outcomes (2)

- **Monitoring:** The national, provincial, and district levels required to review their data collection formats to include specific MDG 4 & 5 interventions and to report quarterly to senior management of Ministry of Health and partners during the Sector Advisory Group (SAG) meetings.
CD meeting Outcomes (3)

• **Reporting:** Report to Inter-agency Coordinating Committee (ICC), Sector Advisory Group (SAG), annual consultative meeting, and M & E technical group.
Key Activities For The Next Country CD – Nov/Dec 2013

1. Country CD is not a one time event. It needs to be built into an ongoing process.

2. Zambia will follow the same steps as it ensured a successful CD in 2008, in addition

3. Follow up on recommendations and actions agreed during the last CD Conference.
4. Produce detailed national, district and sub-centre-level data for tracking use of community registers, score card, ZDHS, HMIS and desk reviews.

5. CD will take into consideration the work of the Commission of Information & Accountability for women’s and Children’s Health.
THANK YOU!!!