The Countdown Report: Data, Methods & Country Profiles

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Purpose of Session
Present findings of Countdown 2012 Report

I. Background to Countdown Monitoring
   Data and methods
   Country profiles

II. Countdown Report Findings
Steps for effective global monitoring

Overview of what Countdown monitors

Data sources

Countdown profiles
Effective global monitoring requires quality at each step

- **Global Reporting**
  - Reports, profiles, websites etc.

- **Analysis**
  - UN Agencies, Interagency Groups, Research groups etc.

- **Compilation and Quality Assurance**
  - *Maintenance of global databases*
  - UN Agencies, Interagency Groups

- **Data Collection**
  - *Household surveys for coverage indicators*
Countdown tracks progress in the 75 countries where more than 95% of all maternal and child deaths occur.

*Source: Authors’ compilation based on information supplied in text.*
What does the Countdown monitor?

- Progress in coverage for critical interventions across reproductive, maternal, newborn & child health continuum of care
- Health Systems and Policies – important context for assessing coverage gains
- Financial flows to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health
- Equity in intervention coverage
Selection of coverage indicators

- Indicators selected using objective criteria:
  - Harmonized with other monitoring efforts (e.g. MDGs)
  - Clear evidence of direct impact on child, newborn and maternal survival
  - Easily understood by policy makers/program managers
Sources of data

- Global monitoring requires standardized data that allows for comparisons between countries and over time
- **Population based household surveys**
  - UNICEF-supported MICS
  - USAID-supported DHS
  - Other national-level household surveys (MIS, RHS and others)
  - Provide disaggregated data - by household wealth, urban-rural residence, gender, educational attainment and geographic location
- **Interagency adjusted estimates**
  U5MR, MMR, immunization, water/sanitation
- **Other data sources** (e.g. administrative data, country reports on policy and systems indicators, country health accounts, and global reporting on external resource flows etc.)
Data for Countdown Monitoring

- MICS
- DHS
- Other national survey
- Non-Countdown country
Data compilation

- **Countdown data** compiled from a wide range of sources

- **Coverage data** largely from UNICEF global databases
  - UNICEF global databases updated annually using rigorous data quality review procedures ([www.childinfo.org](http://www.childinfo.org))

- **Data on policies and systems** from WHO, ILO, OECD and other organizations

- **Equity data** - analysis by Pelotas University (Brazil) based on data from MICS and DHS
Country Profiles
Country Profiles

- Central part of Countdown monitoring effort
- Brings together latest coverage data and other key information (e.g. policies) in one reference document
- Present current situation and rate of progress
- Highlights gaps and areas needing attention
Demographics, including mortality

Maternal & Newborn Health, including Continuum of Care

Equity

Child Health

Nutrition
Good progress in reducing under-five & maternal mortality, but overall rates still too high
• Variable coverage along the continuum of care
• Increases in skilled attendant at delivery
• Progress overall in PMTCT
• Reduction in underweight and stunting prevalence

• High but variable immunization coverage

• Recent increases in pneumonia care seeking & increase but low coverage in pneumonia treatment
Relatively equitable coverage found for many coverage indicators
• Demographics with causes of child and maternal deaths (con’t)
• Maternal and Newborn Health (con’t)
• Child Health (con’t)
• Water and Sanitation
• Policies
• Systems & Financing

#CD2015
What are leading causes of child deaths?

- Neonatal – 31%
- Malaria – 13%
- HIV/AIDS – 13%
- Pneumonia – 11%
- Diarrhoea – 7%

**Undernutrition is a major underlying cause of child deaths**

What are leading causes of maternal deaths?

- Haemorrhage – 34%
- Hypertension – 19%
• Consistent high coverage of antenatal care
• Variable progress in diarrhoea treatment with ORS with continued feeding
• Increases in diarrhoea treatment with ORS
• Increases in coverage of children sleeping under ITNs but still low

#CD2015
• Overall increases in use of improved drinking water source
  • More improvement in rural areas than urban areas

• Overall increases in use of improved sanitation
  • More improvement seen in rural areas than urban areas

• Open defecation
  • 10% in rural areas still practice open defecation

#CD2015
Critical determinants of coverage across the continuum of care such as development of national policies and systems and external resource flows.

#CD2015
Conclusion

- Countdown data powerful instrument for highlighting successes and identifying areas needing more attention
- Countdown provides the foundation for translating data into action!
Thank you