Countdown: General Introduction and In-Depth Country Case Studies

Pelotas, 17/06/13
“We commit ourselves to convening a series of meetings, every 2 years, ... to take stock of progress in preventing child deaths, and to hold countries and their partners accountable.”
An evolution from child survival to the continuum of care
Who is Countdown?

1. **Individuals:** scientists/academics, policymakers, public health workers, communications experts, teachers...

2. **Governments:**
   RMNCH policymakers, members of Parliament...

3. **Organizations:**
   NGOs, UN agencies, HCPAs, donors, medical journals...
Where is Countdown?

75 countries that together account for > 95% of maternal and child deaths worldwide.
Countdown Aims

- To disseminate the best and most recent information on country-level progress
- To take stock of progress and propose new actions
- To hold governments, partners and donors accountable wherever progress is lacking
The Countdown Impact Model

Supportive policies
For example, maternal protection, community health workers and midwives authorized to provide essential services, vital registration, adoption of new interventions

Health systems and financing
For example, human resources, functioning emergency obstetric care, referral and supply chain systems, quality of health services, financial resources for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, user fees

Increased and equitable intervention coverage

Pre-pregnancy
Family planning
Women’s nutrition

Pregnancy
Antenatal care
Intermittent preventive treatment for malaria
Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
Tetanus vaccines

Birth
Skilled attendant at birth
Caesarean section and emergency obstetric care

Postnatal
Postnatal care for mother and baby
Infant and young child feeding

Childhood
Case management of childhood illness
Vaccines
Malaria prevention (insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying)

Increased survival and improved health and nutrition for women and children

Political, economic, social, technological and environmental factors
Countdown Activities

• **Analyze country-level coverage and trends** for interventions proven to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality

• **Track indicators** for determinants of coverage (policies and health system strength; financial flows; equity)

• **Identify knowledge and data gaps** across the RMNCH continuum of care

• **Conduct research and analysis**

• **Support country-level Countdowns**

• **Produce materials, organize global conferences and develop web site** to share findings
Four Technical Working Groups, each responsible for conducting R&A

Political, economic, social, technological, environmental factors

- Financial Flows
  - ODA
  - Domestic

- Health Systems & Policies
  - Human resources
  - Policies
  - Health systems strength

- Coverage
  - Health status
  - Coverage

- Equity
  - SES
  - Gender
  - Geographic

Health System

Family & Community
The Countdown to 2015 Reports
Countdown products

Reports & media materials

Country Profiles

Publications

From Technical Working Groups

And from countries
• Global reports
  – “big report” every 2 years
  – “accountability report” every year
• Scientific articles
• Countdown meetings
  – Global
  – Country
• Country case studies
  – Niger
  – Others
Countdown profiles present latest data for each country

First page of country profile highlights all COIA indicators; 1-page profiles will be published annually
Countdown profiles present latest data for each country

Coverage

Policies, systems, finance

Water/sanitation

Countdown profiles present latest data for each country

Full two-page profiles include additional indicators; full report published bi-annually

Note: All 2012 Report data embargoed until 14 June 2012!
Countdown Global Events

2005 in London
Tracking Progress in Child Survival
Countdown to 2015

2008 in Cape Town
PARLIAMENTARIANS LEAD THE CHANGE
for Women and Children

Joint with Women Deliver
Plenary and 4 sessions:
Most highly rated by conference participants

2010 in DC
61 country delegations!
Country Countdown Events & Products

• Senegal, 2006
  – High level engagement of key partners (Ministries of health and finance, initiated by UNICEF)
  – Strategic planning for scale-up of effective MNCH interventions

• Zambia, 2008
  – MoH initiated and convened
  – National prioritization of MNC mortality reduction

• Nigeria, January 2011
  – FMOH convened in partnership with Save the Children; launched by First Lady
  – Country report and 36 state profiles

• Niger, September 2012
  – Case study (Lancet)
  – Presentation at joint session with iERG (September 2012 in NY)

• More coming as part of accountability agenda!
Countdown Moving Forward

Four streams of work to promote accountability, 2011 to 2015 and beyond

1. Produce country profiles/report every year
2. Conduct analyses and generate new knowledge, including special reports on the priority indicators for the accountability agenda
3. Share findings through products and events
4. Support country-level Countdowns and in-depth case studies focusing on subnational data and response
Accountability for Maternal, Newborn & Child Survival
The 2013 Update

Countdown to 2015
Maternal, Newborn & Child Survival

In-Depth Country Case Studies
Aims

1) To use evidence to tell a series of stories about country progress in RMNCH

2) To produce generalizable lessons about scaling-up RMNCH programs
Scope

- The set of case studies (the “portfolio”), as well as each individual case study, should aim to
  - Assess more than one outcome across the RMNCH continuum of care
  - include attention to success stories as well as areas where progress was not made, and the reasons why
- Special focus on explaining **HOW** progress was achieved

The availability of good, relevant data is a prerequisite for a case study.
Case Study Content

- Assessment of coverage and impact measures
  - If possible along the continuum of care
- Complementary data on policy, health systems, financing
- Equity analyses – in particular, subnational geographic analyses
Process

- Led by in-country institution that is independent of RMNCH program implementation
- Strong capacity-building component. Technical assistance (if needed) via Countdown Technical Working Groups
- Plans and preliminary results presented and discussed with Government and relevant stakeholders in country
- Strong links and synergies with country Countdown events
Reduction in child mortality in Niger: a Countdown to 2015 country case study

Agbesi Amouzou, Oumarou Habi, Khaled Bensaid, and the Niger Countdown Case Study Working Group

Summary

Background The Millennium Development Goal 4 (MDG 4) is to reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate of children younger than 5 years, between 1990 and 2015. The 2012 Countdown profile shows that Niger has achieved far greater reductions in child mortality and gains in coverage for interventions in child survival than neighbouring countries in west Africa. Countdown therefore invited Niger to do an in-depth analysis of their child survival programme between 1998 and 2009.

Methods We developed new estimates of child and neonatal mortality for 1998–2009 using a 2010 household survey. We recalculated coverage indicators using eight nationally-representative surveys for that period, and documented maternal, newborn, and child health programmes and policies since 1995. We used the Lives Saved Tool (LST) to estimate the child lives saved in 2009.
Process – 4 Working Groups

Mortality
- National mortality survey 2010, with full birth history
- Careful data quality assessment

Coverage
- 8 nationally-representative household surveys, 1998-2010
- Recalculation and quality assessment of all indicators

Program documentation
- Independent review of documents & data bases
- 40 key informant interviews
- Tracking of contextual factors

Lives Saved Tool (LiST)
- Determination of consistency between LiST estimates and measured estimates for 2009
- Analysis of contribution of specific interventions and reductions in risk factors

Analysis and writing workshop to bring components together.
Program Documentation: Three major child survival strategies since 2000

**Policies**
- 2000: Presidential Declaration for Rural Development
- 2006: Free Health Care Policy
- 2005: Malaria Policy Revision
- 2008: Malaria & Diarrhea Policy
- 2004: Measles
- 2006: Nutrition Policy

**Program Inputs**
- 2000: Clinical IMCI training begins
- 2000: Construction of first community health posts & training of community health workers
- 2006: CHWs trained to treat childhood illness
- 2000: Vitamin A campaigns, 2 x year
- 2004: National measles campaign
- 2005: ITN campaign
- 2008: National measles campaign
- 2009: ITN campaign
- 2005: Network of National Nutrition Rehabilitation centers

- Increased access to primary health care
- Mass campaigns
- Intensified nutrition programs
Results

Mortality

Intervention Coverage

Nutritional Status

Child Lives Saved, by Intervention
Dissemination

- In-country workshop with MOH
- *Lancet* article with comment by Minister
- Presentation at high-level pre-UN General Assembly meeting in NYC convened by Countdown and iERG
- Media coverage and magazine article
- Presentation in high-level regional meetings
- Follow-up in 2013 iERG report
Countdown Country Process

Civil society, media, MPs capacity strengthening

- Evidence compilation (CD profile)
- Analytical report for review
- Multi-stakeholder CD Consultation
- MAF / RMNCH program Health sector review
- Scientific publication

Country Case Study analysis & capacity strengthening

*Shows the potential components and their linkages as part of country Countdown. Not all components will need to be present in the same country.*
Case Studies in 2013

- Bangladesh (started in 2012)
- Ethiopia
- Malawi
- Afghanistan/Pakistan
- Peru

Additional case studies planned for 2014 and 2015
Links to Country Countdowns

- A case study can be useful in **preparing for** a country Countdown, but is not required
- Case studies can also **follow** a country Countdown event, to provide more in-depth understanding
- Case study proposals must include a plan for dissemination; if not a country Countdown, what?
Obrigado!