

Countdown Steering Committee meeting, 14-15 January 2019, Washington DC

Note for the Record

Present: Zulfiqar Bhutta and John Grove (co-chairs), Nicolas Alipui, Agbessi Amouzou, Anshu Banerjee (remote), Robert Black, Kimberly Boer, Ties Boerma, John Borazzo, Mickey Chopra, Trieste Ciotola, Mariam Claeson, Helga Fogstad, Mark Hereward, Catherine Kyobutungi, Ana Langer, Zoe Mullan, Ellen Piwoz, Jennifer Requejo, Robert Scherpier, Savitha Subramanian, Ann Starrs, Peter Waiswa, Shelley Walton.

The participants weathered a Washington DC snowstorm for the annual steering committee meeting of the Countdown to discuss seven agenda points. The meeting was co-chaired by Zulfi Bhutta and John Grove. Zulfi has been co-chair since 2006 and was thanked for his great contributions to the Countdown for more than a decade! Catherine Kyobutungi, director of the African Population Health Research Centre, is succeeding Zulfi as the academic co-chair.

The main issues were presented in nine documents shared in advance to the meeting. The main points are summarized in the middle column of the table below. The outcomes of the discussions are summarized in the right column.

Agenda items	Main inputs	Outcomes discussion
Review of 2018 outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Major advances in regional initiatives in LAC and sub-Saharan Africa engaging 50+ countries and conducting 6 analysis workshops in 2018 ○ 25 papers on monitoring & measurement published or submitted ○ 35 papers in preparation through technical working groups and regional initiatives ○ Supplement for BMJ Global Health on measurement in review stage (7 papers) ○ Country profiles and report launched in Jan 18; ECD profiles launched in May 18; Equity profiles in Jan 18 ○ Countdown global measurement conference, 100 participants, Feb 2018 ○ Multiple collaborative engagements: C-section series Lancet (AKU), BRANCH on conflicts (Toronto), transforming child and adolescent health (Toronto, WHO, UNICEF), multisectoral approaches (PMNCH, BMJ series); joint financing working group (PMNCH), ECD working group (Wits Univ, UNICEF), AH commission (Lancet), ICM (JHU), MONITOR, CHAT (WHO) ○ Analyses for IAP, UNICEF, PAHO ○ Expansion indicators, stratifiers and datasets at database Center for Equity in Health, Pelotas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The shift in emphasis to regional initiatives is now much more visible and beginning to bring results ❖ The current regional partner institutions (APHRC, WAHO, Pelotas) are critical in further expanding into countries ❖ The Countdown work with regions and countries is best referred to as collaboration for evidence generation and capacity strengthening, rather than just capacity building. ❖ Need for a broader discussion on capacity strengthening including analysis and Countdown should be part of such discussions initiated by e.g. HDC or WHO

Country list	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current list is 81 countries with highest burden of maternal and child deaths ○ Leads to some awkward exclusions (e.g. Syria) and does not align with SDG agenda ○ Pelotas database now includes larger number of countries ○ UNICEF and WHO usually work with income country classifications rather than the Countdown country list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Broaden focus to all low- and middle-income countries, with flexible approach ❖ Continue to use mortality burden/share for communication, and use other framings depending on the topic ❖ Use SDG targets to guide focus ❖ Consider high income countries if needed (e.g. within country focus)
Countdown country profiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General country profile production led by UNICEF with Countdown inputs ○ Coordination between UNICEF and WHO ongoing, both are working on dynamic databases which can generate country profiles ○ Pelotas updates the equity profiles on a regular basis, and WHO Health Equity Monitor now allows production of selected analytical outputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Good way to communicate statistics on progress and inequalities (also concluded from a review in 2015) ❖ Work with UNICEF on general profiles, ECD profiles – regular updating but also important to consider good moments to launch; ❖ Continue updating of equity profiles (Pelotas) and link with WHO Health Equity Monitor
GFF – Countdown collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A concept note was presented by GFF and Countdown to 2030, aiming to engage the Countdown in technical collaborations with country institutions for analysis and communication to inform annual and midterm reviews in 20 countries during 2019-2023 with strong regional involvement ○ The current draft has been shared for inputs within the Countdown and also with Global Fund and GAVI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Need for a detailed plan, which is also more specific about the inputs of CD partners ❖ Develop common framework for working with countries early on ❖ MoH is one partner, also consider other sectors ❖ Include gap identification as one of the outputs ❖ Sharpen focus of possible CD engagement in implementation or embedded research ❖ Use HDC approach, working with all relevant partners, with CD focusing on the analysis part linked to reviews and other decision-making processes
Countdown 2019-23 priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial strategic ideas for a new phase of the Countdown (2019-2023) were presented including the global agenda (research on measurement and monitoring, collaborations with multiple partnerships and partners) and the regional / country agenda (focusing on GFF – CD collaboration) ○ Initial ideas for transition of current technical working groups into technical task forces to support both measurement agenda and country work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Need for clear strategy on how the CD collaborates and partnerships ❖ WHO and UNICEF continue as central CD stakeholders; World Bank (GFF) country collaboration; ❖ Explore stronger engagement UNFPA (SRH) ❖ Strengthen collaboration with PMNCH: advocacy and communication strategy, link to accountability, working with countries and regions, financial tracking ❖ FP2020, nutrition projects (A&T, Transform, GNR), humanitarian emergencies (BRANCH and others), maternal health and others

<p>Global reporting and Countdown role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement that in general global reporting needs to be more focused and harmonized around Global Strategy Reporting led by H6 ○ PMNCH is looking into ways to harmonize and strengthen global reporting ○ Countdown has no plans for continuing global reports, but an outline for a research paper series to be launched early 2020 was presented ○ In 2020 there may be a global H6 report (TBC); UNFPA will produce a report on state of world midwifery and WHO on State of Nursing (both for WHA); UHC progress reporting also likely to continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Several suggestions for the Countdown research paper series for January 2020 ❖ WHO will contribute a general progress paper (to be discussed) ❖ Current set of about 10 papers needs to pay more attention to try to explain progress and performance ❖ Consider other Countdown areas such as ECD to provide a complete picture ❖ Ensure attention for maternal health and gender & NCD ❖ Take into account other work such as the BRANCH conflict consortium and GNR
<p>2019 plan and recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preparation of strategy and plan for CD 2019-23 including the GFF-CD collaboration to work in 20 countries ○ Develop CD research paper series for Jan 2020 in collaboration with PMNCH, WHO, UNICEF and other CD partners – focus on leaving no one behind ○ Contribute to global reporting and other analyses (e.g. IAP) as requested and feasible ○ Finalize current technical workplans including publications ○ Organize at least 4 regional workshops (facility data, nutrition, ASRH, female headed households) ○ Revisit and improve the articulation of CD collaborations (with MoU or set of activities if useful) ○ Continue resource mobilization for specific CD activities ○ Contribute to efforts to improve and streamline the production of general and specific profiles 	

Countdown Steering Committee meeting

14-15 January 2019, World Bank, Washington DC

Agenda (co-chairs Zulfi Bhutta and John Grove)

MONDAY, 14 JANUARY			
Time	Topic	Presenters	Documents
2018: Review of outputs, Progress and partnerships			
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and introductions	Co-Chairs Zulfi Bhutta and John Grove	Doc1: NFR last SC meeting Doc2: Matrix of activities and linkages
9:15 – 10:30	2018 review of Countdown outputs	Ties Boerma, Countdown	Doc3: Summary of outputs 2018 Doc4: List of 2018 publications
	Discussion		
10:30-11:00	Coffee break		
Regional partnerships: Countdown, regional and country institutions			
11:00 – 12:30	Regional networks: African Population & Health Research Centre and Countdown	Catherine Kyobutungi, APHRC	
	Federal University of Pelotas	Aluisio Barros (remote), U Pelotas	
	West Africa Health Organization	Agbessi Amouzou, Johns Hopkins University	
	Makerere University	Peter Waiswa, Makerere University	
	Discussion: links with partner regional strategies relevant for analysis and use of data	Steering Committee	
Countdown country list and country profiles			
12:30 -13:00	Country profiles and databases: progress and Countdown contribution (general, equity, ECD, adolescents etc.)	Ties Boerma, Countdown Mark Hereward, UNICEF Anshu Banerjee and John Grove, WHO	Doc5a: Example CD country profile 2018 Doc5b: Example CD country equity profile
	Countdown country list: to revise or not to revise	Ties Boerma, Countdown	CD Country list
	Discussion		
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>		

MONDAY, 14 JANUARY (continued)			
Time	Topic	Presenters	Documents
Countdown and GFF collaboration			
14:00 – 16:00	Update on GFF strategy and priorities	Mariam Claeson, GFF / World Bank	Doc6: Concept note GFF – CD collaboration
	GFF M&E framework and country engagement	Kimberly Boer, GFF / World Bank	
	Countdown – GFF collaboration	Ties Boerma, Countdown	
	Discussion		
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break		
16:30 – 17:30	Implications for Countdown	Ties Boerma, Countdown	Doc7: Strategic and structural implications for CD
	Discussion		
19:00	Dinner		
TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY			
9:00 – 10:30	Global monitoring		
	Global landscape and plans in context of Global Strategy	PMNCH Ann Starrs WHO Anshu Banerjee, John Grove UNICEF Mark Hereward / Stefan Pedersen, IAP Nicolas Alipui	
	Countdown plans for 2020	Ties Boerma, Countdown	Doc8: CD plans for Series 2020
	Discussion		
	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11:00-12:30	Countdown governance, communication and strategic priorities 2019-2023		
	Revisiting the 2019-2023 plans	Discussion	
	Governance implications; change of chair	Ties Boerma	Doc9: CD Governance
	Discussion		
	Communication		
	Resource mobilization	All	
12:30	Closure and lunch		

List of documents

1. Note for the Record Countdown to 2030 Steering Committee Meeting, February 13, 2018 @ UNICEF HQ, NYC
2. Countdown table of activities and partnerships
3. Summary of outputs in 2018
4. List of (planned) publications 2018
5. Example CD country profile 2018
 - a. Generic CD country profile Dec 2017 - Uganda
 - b. CD country equity profile Dec 2017 - Uganda
6. Countdown to 2030 Country list
7. Concept note GFF – CD collaboration
8. CD plans for Series 2020
9. Countdown to 2030 Governance
10. Countdown to 2030 structural proposals

Countdown to 2030 List of 81 countries with 90% of the burden of child deaths and 95% of the burden of maternal deaths

LIST OF COUNTDOWN TO 2030 COUNTRIES			
Afghanistan	Dominican Republic	Lao PDR	Rwanda
Algeria	Equatorial Guinea	Lesotho	Senegal
Angola	Eritrea	Liberia	Sierra Leone
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia	Madagascar	Solomon Islands
Bangladesh	Gabon	Malawi	Somalia
Benin	Gambia, The	Mali	South Africa
Bhutan	Ghana	Mauritania	South Sudan
Bolivia	Guatemala	Morocco	Sudan
Botswana	Guinea	Mozambique	Suriname
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Myanmar	Swaziland
Burundi	Guyana	Namibia	Tajikistan
Cambodia	Haiti	Nepal	Tanzania
Cameroon	Honduras	Nicaragua	Timor-Leste
Central African Republic	India	Niger	Togo
Chad	Indonesia	Nigeria	Turkmenistan
Comoros	Iraq	Pakistan	Uganda
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Jamaica	Panama	Uzbekistan
Congo, Rep.	Kenya	Papua New Guinea	Venezuela, RB
Côte d'Ivoire	Korea, Dem. Rep.	Paraguay	Yemen, Rep.
Djibouti	Kyrgyz Republic	Philippines	Zambia
			Zimbabwe



Countdown to 2030

Women's, Children's & Adolescents' Health

Countdown to 2030's Steering Committee Meeting

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