

Summary report of the first Countdown 2030 analysis workshop in Eastern and Southern Africa

Theme: Strengthening Analysis and Evidence for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH&N)

Key highlights

As part of the Countdown 2030 global initiative, the first analysis workshop in Eastern and Southern Africa region took place at African Population Health Research Centre (APHRC) in Nairobi, Kenya, 27 November – 1 December 2017. The overall goal of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of country and regional institutions to conduct rigorous analyses on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH&N).

In total, 19 countries nominated senior analysts from the Ministry of Health, public health institutions and universities to attend the workshop. The Countdown team of facilitators included experts from APHRC, Johns Hopkins University, University of Manitoba, University of Pelotas, WHO, UNICEF and the Health Data Collaborative.

Workshop facilitators



The workshop was classroom-based using participatory techniques, PowerPoint presentations, and practical exercises, often supplemented by one-one mentoring during the week. The training was facilitated through 13 sessions and covered key topics including: Analysis of maternal and newborn coverage indicators; Measuring maternal and child mortality; Analysis of reproductive health indicators; Analysis of child health indicators and immunization; Analysis of WASH and nutrition indicators; Equity analysis; and contextual and health facility data analysis. The detailed workshop agenda is presented in Appendix 2.

Group photo



Workshop evaluation by participants

Participants were asked to evaluate each of the analysis sessions as well as the workshop overall. The majority of participants found the capacity strengthening on Stata very useful for their work, although a few noted that they were unable to continue work on Stata without a licensed copy of the software (experience with Stata or similar software was a prerequisite for participation in the workshop). The introduction to StatCompiler was also appreciated by participants.

Capacity strengthening in analysis of standard RMNCAH&N indicators was widely hailed as a strength of the workshop. One participant noted, "It has helped me as in the Ministry of Health I have to do quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports every now and then, so this also assists the country as a whole." Analysis of subnational health facility data was also noted as a strength of the workshop. Mortality analysis and equity analysis, however, received divergent reviews, with some participants citing those as additional value while others expressed dissatisfaction with these aspects of the

workshop. A widespread sense that the workshop covered many topics in a short period may underlie the mixed reviews of some analytic sessions, as not all participants had the same level of training prior to the workshop. Among additional sessions, the presentation on use of evidence for policy engagement was widely hailed as useful.

Most participants reported that the structure of the workshop was appropriate, despite the limited time available for each analysis session.

Logistics were widely considered strong, and there were very few complaints about the organization of the workshop. Use of the large auditorium was accepted for plenary demonstrations, but participants said that the breakout rooms were preferable for testing analysis and obtaining expert guidance from the facilitators.

As next steps, participants requested continued interaction and communication with the facilitator team in conducting further analyses through the intermediate phase. Several asked for additional training in Stata, and a few noted the value of creating a network for Countdown 2030 at a country level. As part of the anticipated second workshop, there is an expectation that country analysis will remain the focus.

Appendixes

1. List of participants

Countries	Participant	University / Public health institute	Email
Angola	Theresa Isaac Spinola	National Statistical Institute	teresa.spinola@ine.gov.ao
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2. Workshop agenda

Day 1 – Monday, 27 November

Time	Outcome	Responsible	Background documents
<u>Session 1 Welcome, Introductions and overview</u>			
Introduce purpose and methods of working, general conceptual framework and examples of anticipated outputs for countries			
8:30 – 10:30	Welcome and introductions; objectives and outline of the workshop	Catherine Kyobutungi, Director APHRC	Workshop outline
	Short overview of Countdown to 2030 and Health Data Collaborative	Ties Boerma, Countdown Chelsea Taylor, HDC	Countdown & HDC documents
	Main conceptual framework, research questions and expected products, illustrated with concrete results	Agbessi Amouzou, JHU Cheikh Faye, APHRC	Lancet papers Countdown; conceptual framework for project
	Discussion and questions		
10:30	Coffee / Tea break		
<u>Session 2 Coverage indicators</u>			
Develop the continuum of care coverage indicators, definitions and their data sources			
11:00-13:00	Introduction and discussion of the core list of coverage indicators with data sources and methodological issues	JHU team	Core list of indicators, definitions, data sources; survey and other data sources
	Setting up the survey data sets: sampling methods, creating consistent data sets over time, basic survey analysis; Practical application of data preparation	JHU and APHRC	Description of the methods and code to create data set; data sets in DropBox and on USB stick; Stat Compiler guidance
	Exercise: Indicators 3. DFPSm; 2. ANC4; 3. SBA; 4 PNC Newborn; 5. DPT3; 6. Careseeking for ARI; 7. Exclusive Breastfeeding; 8. Basic water; 9. Stunting		
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break		
<u>Session 3 Maternal and newborn coverage indicators</u>			
Working with data sets: primary data, aggregate data; analysis of regional trends			
14:00 - 16:00	Introduction: maternal and newborn coverage indicators analyses	APHRC	Guidance document MNH: indicators, data sources, analysis methods, Stata code / Stat Compiler instructions
	Track 1: Analysis of household survey data for coverage indicators	Track 2: Analysis survey data with Stat Compiler	
16:30	Coffee / Tea break		
17:00 – 17:30	Sharing the initial results on maternal and newborn indicators: national and subnational trends		

Day 2 – Tuesday, 28 November

Time	Outcome	Responsible	Background documents
<u>Session 4 Maternal and child mortality</u>			
Review national maternal, stillbirth, neonatal and child mortality estimates and survey data, extract subnational data from StatCompiler			
8:30-10:30	Maternal mortality: introduction of country data and methods Stillbirths, neonatal and child mortality: introduction of country data and methods	U Manitoba	Guidance document; IGME and MM references
	Country analysis: reviewing country mortality data sheets (prepared); analysis of the data by region, graph preparation		Spreadsheet with mortality data
11:00	Coffee / tea break		
<u>Session 5 Reproductive health coverage and nutritional status indicators</u>			
Analysis of the RH coverage and anthropometry indicators, national and subnational			
11:00 – 13:00	Introduction: RH coverage indicators	APHRC	Guidance document MNH: indicators, data sources, analysis methods, Stata code / Stat Compiler instructions
	Track 1: Analysis of household survey data for coverage indicators & nutrition	Track 2: Analysis of survey data with Stat Compiler	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break		
<u>Session 6 Child health indicators, including immunization coverage</u>			
Analysis of the child health indicators, national and subnational			
14:00 – 16:30	Introduction: child health coverage and immunization indicators	JHU	Guidance document MNH: indicators, data sources, analysis methods, Stata code / Stat Compiler instructions
	Track 1: Analysis of household survey data for coverage indicators	Track 2: Analysis of survey data with Stat Compiler	
16:30-17:00	Tea break		
17:00 – 17:30	Sharing the initial results on RH, nutrition, child health indicators: national and subnational levels and trends		

Day 3 – Wednesday, 29 November

Time	Outcome	Responsible	Background documents
Session 7 WASH and nutrition indicators			
Analysis of the environmental indicators (water and sanitation, indoor air pollution) and anthropometry			
8:30 – 10:30	Introduction: water and sanitation, and anthropometric indicators	JHU	Guidance document MNH: indicators, data sources, analysis methods, Stata code / Stat Compiler instructions
	Track 1: Analysis of household survey data for coverage indicators	Track 2: Analysis of survey data with Stat Compiler	
10:30	Coffee / tea break		
Session 8 Equity analyses			
General principles in equity analysis including socioeconomic, demographic and geographic stratifiers, analysis and presentation of equity data			
11:00-13:00	Introduction: equity analyses	Aluisio Barros, U Pelotas	Guidance document; equity analysis blue book WHO
	Track 1: Equity analysis of household survey data for	Track 2: Equity analysis of survey data with Stat Compiler	Stata Code Stat Compiler guidance
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break		
Session 8 Equity analysis continued			
Analysis equity data, and presentation of equity data with HEAT Plus tool including measures of inequality			
14:00 – 16:30	Introduction HEAT Plus tool for equity data	Aluisio Barros, U Pelotas	
	Track 1: Analysis of household survey data for equity	Track 2: Presenting results with HEAT Plus; summary measures	HEAT Plus Guidance
16:30	Tea break		
17:00 – 17:30	Sharing the initial results on equity of RH, nutrition, child health indicators: national and subnational levels and trends		

Day 4 – Thursday, 30 November

Time	Outcome	Responsible	Background documents
Session 9 Computing and analyzing indexes (CCI)			
Use of the Composite Coverage Index to assess levels, trends and inequalities			
8:30-10:30	Introduction: Composition Coverage Index for RMNCH	Aluisio Barros, U Pelotas	Paper and instruction on CCI
	Track 1: CCI computation using	Track 2: Index computation in Excel	Stata code Excel tool

	household survey data, including sampling errors	using survey data from Stat Compiler		
10:30	Tea / coffee break			
Session 10 Health facility data analysis Working with routine HMIS data to obtain RMNCH and other health statistics for the national and local levels				
11:00 – 13:00	Introduction and methods of facility data analysis	Ties Boerma, U Manitoba		Guidance paper;
	Analysis of health facility data: example data set or country data set, national or subnational			Excel sheet with data
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break			
Session 11 Synthesis of analyses Preparing country presentation of selected findings and analysis issues				
14:00 – 16:30	Country preparation for presentation on Friday	Countries		
16:30	Coffee / Tea break			
17:00 – 17:30	Wrap up			

Day 5 – Friday, 1 December

Session 12 Intermediate phase: research tools Introduce and discuss the intermediate research tools, develop proposals				
8:30-8:40	Introduction: Intermediate phase research activities – outline, tools and discussion	Ties Boerma, University of Manitoba		
8:40-9:10	Policy analysis	Danielle Doughman, APHRC		Excerpts from Countdown papers (Session 1)
9:10-9:30	Financial analyses: national subaccounts; subnational health spending	Estelle Sidze, APHRC		National health account documents, countdown papers, costed implementation plans, case studies, discuss with WHO
9:30-10:00	Quality of care	Estelle Sidze, APHRC Ties Boerma, University of Manitoba		Analysis SPA, SARA, SDI; linked analyses with surveys
10:00-10:30	Health workforce and infrastructure	Ties Boerma, University of Manitoba		Spreadsheet with data; WHO standards
10:30-11:00	Tea / coffee break			
11:00-11:40	Health and demographic surveillance / birth and death registration data	Benedict, APHRC		NUHDSS papers
11:40 – 13:00	Instructions for country proposals Country group work on proposals	All		
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break			
Session 13 Country presentations				

Sharing some findings and issues

14:00-16:30	Country presentations on major findings and issues so far	Countries	
16:30	Coffee / Tea break		
17:00 – 17:30	Way forward and closing of the meeting		