

15 May 2014

## **Message from the Global Countdown Team to be read at the Tanzanian National RMNCH Event: Women and Children First**

Your Excellency, President Kikwete, honourable deputy Minister of Health, Dr Stephen Kebwe, representatives from the Ministry of Health, representatives from the UN agencies and development partners, local government leaders, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, I have been asked to share the following words with you on behalf of Global Countdown to 2015

Countdown salutes his Excellency, President Kikwete, the government of Tanzania, and the development partners for organising this landmark event that puts Tanzanian Mothers and Children First.

Additionally, we salute you for examining the data to better understand where Tanzania is, where there has been progress and where there has not, and identify who is being left behind for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health.

Countdown is a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional collaboration that advocates for the use of high quality data to inform action and accountability and is closely linked to the Commission on Information and Accountability (COIA), which was co-chaired by his Excellency, President Kikwete.

As Countdown we have been honoured to work with Tanzania on the numerous processes specific to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health occurring in country. In particular, we value the opportunity to work with you to conduct the Countdown Country Case Study, an analysis supported by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), funded by the Canadian Government, and that alongside the One Plan Midterm Review and Health Sector Strategic Plan III Midterm Review informed the Sharpened One Plan.

Countdown now looks forward, to the national and local government and the development partners, to ensure accountability for the actions highlighted in this Plan, specifically around family planning and care at birth, so that by 2030 progress will be made and no one will be left behind.

**Tunahitaji kuweka kipaumbele, kuwekeza, katika rasimali, timiza wajibu wako, ili kuokoa maisha**

*(We need to prioritise, invest and deliver faster to save lives!)*

**Asanteni!**