Countdown collaboration researchers at a data dissemination event in June 2022.

such as the COVID-19 analysis, the urban health study, and health facility data analysis workshops. The Countdown collaboration prepared a mid-term review of the National Health Strategic Plan (NHSP) 2017-2021. This analysis also included a color-coded executive summary comparing progress to targets. This report was also used to develop the new NHSP. A subsequent report focused on equity in reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health (RMNCH). In June 2022, more than 60 people attended a meeting about progress toward equity in RMNCH, health policy and systems analysis, and COVID-19’s impact on RMNCH services. Hosted by Countdown, attendees were from the Ministry of Health, the Zambia Statistics Agency, several United Nations organizations, the country’s largest teaching hospital, international nonprofit organizations, the United States Agency for International Development and the University of Zambia.

The annual data review meetings have shown encouraging progress and also identified gaps that still need to be addressed, noted Patricia Bobo, acting director public health and research at the Ministry of Health during the June 2022 event. "Reviewing data is important because otherwise we may do things just because we did them in the past, without thinking about what impact is being achieved.”

The Countdown collaboration has also helped reduce duplication of efforts between the Ministry of Health and the university researchers. “Ultimately, all the research we are doing should be able to improve how we are doing our service delivery and how we actually program to achieve improved outcomes,” Sikapande said “We have seen that as we partner, as we collaborate, we are able to reduce duplication of efforts because we are all working towards a common goal.”

Chooowe Jacobs, a lecturer and researcher at the University of Zambia who is part of the Countdown collaboration said, “This collaboration, particularly in-country between the Ministry of Health and the university, has been strengthened through capacity building in analytical and knowledge translation skills and increased data sharing and demand.” Although Zambia’s DHIS platform includes extensive information, previously Countdown collaboration partners at the University of Zambia, had little access to the data. Through the Countdown collaboration their use of the data has increased, and graduate students are able to access the data for their practicums and dissertations.

For example, in April 2022 findings from analysis of health facility and Demographic Health survey data conducted by the Countdown collaboration was shared in an event at the University of Zambia’s School of Public Health. The event included oral presentations followed by open discussion. This was the first event of its type at the School of Public Health, and it motivated university leadership to start having similar research presentations every month.

As we plan to move forward, I would emphasize the need for collaboration, collaboration, collaboration, ” said Dr. Hikabasa Halwiindi, dean of the University of Zambia’s School of Public Health. “If you want to go first, go alone; if you want to go far, go alone; if you want to go far, you need others.”

Related documents: Midterm report • Equity report • Policy brief: Child health • Presentations from June 2022 dissemination • Nairobi June 2020 workshop report

To learn more visit: www.countdown2030.org