



Ethiopia – Countdown to 2030 country collaboration study

Final Report

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1. Introduction

Ethiopia has documented several achievements in health-related Millennium Development Goals, Goal 3 and 4. Its achievements in the area of maternal and a slight change in newborn mortality has led the country to be selected as one of seven exemplar countries that are considered success stories in bringing down maternal and newborn mortality for the past several years. Even though progress in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality was made across regions in the country, maternal and newborn mortality rates conceal considerable variation between regions, suggesting for in-depth analyses and syntheses of data both at national and subnational levels to learn more from not only national success stories but also from key drivers behind uneven progress observed across regions. To keep up the country's momentum, there is a demand for evidence to continue monitoring of its progress and performances towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Countdown to 2030 in collaboration with EPHI proposes to undertake the Countdown country collaboration and the MNH exemplar study and in-depth thematic studies embedded within the country collaboration initiative, with a general objective to learn from the country's achievements in MNH and enhance the country's evidence on progress and performance in RMNCAH+N and priority areas to inform health reviews of national plans and programs.

The general objective is to generate evidence that inform the country's health plan review by preparing an in-depth analysis and synthesis of all relevant data on RMNCAH+N of progress and performance related to the global and national targets of the national health sector transformation plan. It also aims to systematically investigate, document and compare the contribution of health policies and systems, programs and services, changes in the coverage, quality and equity of proven and new interventions for MNH, as well as contextual factors, to the reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality in Ethiopia over the past three decades nationally and sub-nationally. In addition, it anticipates to shedding light up on gaps and challenges of the health system for better strategic planning, particularly for prioritizations and resource allocation.

The analysis and synthesis of results of health review focused on national and sub-national contexts, using a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework outlined in the national health sector transformation plan-I, while the exemplar study will be guided by a contextual framework to systematically investigate, document and compare the contribution of health policies and systems, programs and services, changes in coverage, quality and equity of interventions for MNH, as well as contextual factors, to the reduction of NMR and MMR over the past three decades.

Project start date: November 2020

Project End date: December 2022

Duration of the Project: 2 Year

2. GENERAL Objective

The collaboration's overarching goal is to inform the country's health policies, strategies, and plans by conducting an in-depth analysis and synthesis of all relevant data on progress and performance in relation to the national health plan's targets. It also plans to shed light on the health system's gaps and challenges in order to improve strategic planning, particularly for prioritization and resource allocation.

3. Specific Objectives

- To strengthen country evidence and analytical capacity to inform national health plan reviews of health progress and performance, with a focus on RMNCAH+N and priority areas;
- To enhance efficiency of current investments through evidence-informed decision making;
- To improve country-led progress monitoring, analysis and use of health data for transparency and accountability
- To leverage data revolution efforts for effective use of facility and community data systems
- To better understand and document the drivers behind the decline in maternal and newborn mortality in Ethiopia, and provide evidence-based information to the MOH and stakeholder pertinent to supporting country's national health policies, strategies and plans

4. Research organization

The **Countdown-Ethiopia Country Collaboration (CECC)** composed of technical experts from EPHI, as a lead institution, the MOH, and global partners of the Countdown mainly UofM, LSHTM, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) (for streamline technical support).

A Steering Committee (SC) established from MOH (Policy plan M&E directorate, MCHN directorate and disease prevention and control directorate) and from EPHI (Health system and reproductive health research directorate (HSRHRD) and the Deputy Director General of EPHI).

A Technical Working Group (TWG) has been established from comprised of the local core team from HSRHRD/EPHI, MOH and global technical team from UofM and LSHTM. EPHI coordinated the implementation of the project. The UofM and LSHTM also streamlined their technical support in collaboration with other Countdown global/regional partners and DACs as needs for specific technical expertise arise. The collaboration agreement was signed between EPHI and APHRC. All core members of the TWG team (EPHI, MOH, UoM, and LSHTM) resumed its meeting bimonthly, and sometimes weekly as deemed necessary.

5. The scope of the Countdown to 2030

- Maternal and newborn health – Exemplar study (Quantitative and Qualitative study)

- Ethiopia Investment study - Health sector and Transformation plan – End line review study (2015/16 – 2019/20)
- Analysis on Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the continuation of essential health services with focus on RMNCH
- National and subnational coverage and other service statistics for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health using health facility data and surveys Brief synthesis of the analyses Countdown to 2030 / GFF / UNICEF / WHO workshop
- Country health statistics/ profile

6. Approaches

- The TWG and SC member conduct the meeting mostly through virtual and the TWG meets in-person and mostly virtual throughout the project implementation period.
- There are data analysis workshops, inception workshops, validation workshops, and a dissemination workshop.
- Analytical capacity strengthens workshop from the main countdown to 2030 on various data analytic centers.

7. Events and Meetings

7.1 Launching workshop

May 6-7, 2021 Launching Workshop for Countdown to 2030 – Ethiopia Country Collaboration May

Objectives of the inception workshop:

- To introduce the objectives of Countdown to 2030 country collaboration study
- To review the objectives and deliverables of the study with stakeholders
- To map the data sources for the quantitative analysis
- To prioritize the policy/strategy/program/interventions that contributed to the maternal and neonatal mortality in Ethiopia

Participants: The inception workshop was very well attended with representatives from MOH, Regional Health Bureau, EPHI, and International Agencies such as UNFPA, and a few others. A total of 40 participants participated in the inception workshop, and have been provided inputs and insights on the various presentations made by EPHI and the Countdown team which helped to focus the qualitative data collection and synthesis of evidence through secondary sources.

Presented topics

- Objectives of the Countdown –country collaboration study
- Maternal and Neonatal mortality in Ethiopia - Ethiopia Preliminary results
- Health Policy Timeline from 1990 to 2020 – Ethiopia Preliminary results
- Exemplars Qualitative Study in Ethiopia- refine the study and prioritizing the high impact policies in maternal and neonatal mortality
- Mapping Data sources for the qualitative analysis

7.2 MNH -Validation workshop

November 29, 2021: Validation workshop –I MNH study findings November 29, 2022

Objectives of the validation workshop:

- To validate the analysis results since the source data used different sources
- To check or proving the validity or accuracy of result
- To improve the quality of findings by incorporating the comments provided by different stakeholders on the validation workshop

Participants: The validation workshop was moderated by HE Dr Meseret Zelalm, Director of Maternal and child health and nutrition, Ministry of Health. More than 50 participants attended the validation workshop from the MOH, Regional Health Bureau, EPHI, and partners working in maternal and neonatal health to mention fea. Participants have provided inputs and insights on the various presentations made by EPHI and the Countdown team on the following topics:

Presented topics

- Ethiopia’s Progress and Performance in Reducing Maternal and Child Mortality, 1990-2019
- Impact of fertility on maternal and neonatal mortality decline
- Maternal and newborn health :Influences of broad contextual factors

- Health system strength index
- Additional Neonatal, Maternal, Child lives saved by intervention: LiST analysis
- Health Policy Timeline from 1990 to 2020 – Ethiopia Major Findings
- Continuum Care and CCI on Selected RMNCH Indicators
- Exemplars Qualitative Study in Ethiopia: Policies, strategies, and plans for the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality and equity among regions
- Drivers of the decline in maternal and newborn mortality in Ethiopia: a brief synthesis

7.3 Health system transformation plan I (2015/16-2019/20) End line review –Validation workshop

October 4 Oct. 2022: Validation workshop –2 Health sector and Transformation plan – End line review study

- The HSTP-I end line review validation workshop was officially opened by His Excellency Dr Dereje Duguma, State minister, Ministry of Health. A total of 80 participants attend the validation workshop, from representatives from MOH, Regional Health Bureau, EPHI, and International Agencies such as UNFPA, and a few others. Participants have provided inputs and insights on the various presentations made by EPHI and the Countdown team on the following topics:

Presented topics

- End-line review and MNH exemplar study:
- Measuring the Ethiopia Health system performance: More effort required to achieve SDG 2030
- Health system strengthening and multisectoral engagement as a driver of health gains in Ethiopia
- Additional Maternal neonatal, child lives saved by intervention and still birth prevented by intervention: Live Saving Tool (LiST)
- Impacts of Covid-19 on the continuation of essential health services with special reference to RMNCH - analysis of DHIS2 data
- Distal, intermediate and proximal predictors of neonate’s survival time in Ethiopia: Survival analysis using evidence from merged five demographic health survey data from 2000-2019
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7.4 Dissemination workshop – Countdown to 2030 country collaboration study

December 22, 2022 Countdown to 2030 – Ethiopia Country collaboration Study Dissemination workshop “learning from the past, planning for the future”

Objective of the Dissemination workshop

1. To share a high level synthesis of the findings of the main Countdown analysis projects

2. To have an interactive component, as participants can express their own views and knowledge related to the research evidences
3. To discuss the implications and priorities for Countdown analyses and analytical capacity strengthening in support of Ministry of Health in the coming years

The dissemination workshop was officially opened by Her Excellency, Dr Lia Tadesse, Minister, Ministry of Health. Higher officials Director general and Deputy Director General of EPHI also attend the dissemination workshop. The workshop was very well attended with representatives from MOH, Regional Health Bureau, EPHI, and International Agencies such as UNFPA, and a few others. A total of 70 invited participants attend the dissemination workshop. The dissemination workshop was moderated by Mr Naod Wendrad, Director of Plan Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, Ministry of Health.

Panel discussion also conducted on the data uptake of the present study. Panelists were from MoH-MCH Directorate, Plan Policy Directorate, EPHI and Representatives of the Countdown to 2030. The panel discussion was moderated by Professor Mirkuzie, Senior Technical Advisor for MCH.

Presentations made by EPHI and the Countdown team, in-person and Virtual on the following topics:

<p>Presented topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethiopia's progress in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality • Interpreting Ethiopia's progress with a mortality transition model • Drivers of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Decline in Ethiopia: Qualitative study • Policies and health system inputs and outputs: Health work force, facilities, financing and UHC indexes • Contextual factors and Health gains in Ethiopia • Additional maternal, neonatal, child lives saved by different interventions and still birth prevented : Live Saving Tool (LiST) • HSTP – I End line Review Findings: on Selected RMNCH-N Indicators • Key policy-relevant evidence for action: summary of key findings for policy and strategic planning
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8. Technical Report /Deliverables/ Supporting Materials

From the two year study, the following technical reports and country health statistics were distributed to the Ministry of health –different directorates, regional health bureau, and partners in addition to those distributed to the workshop participants.

1. Understanding the Drivers of Reduction in Maternal and Neonatal Mortality in Ethiopia — An in-depth Case Study of the Global Health Exemplars
2. Health Sector Transformation Plan-I (HSTP-I): 2015/16-2019/20: Endline Review Report
3. Maternal and child health care services utilization during COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopia
4. Country statistics/profile on Performance of selected indicators, brochures
5. ETHIOPIA _HEALTH COVERAGE CHART SUMMARY, 2022

6. National and subnational coverage and other service statistics for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health using health facility data and surveys Brief synthesis of the analyses Countdown to 2030 / GFF / UNICEF / WHO workshop Report

Find the report in the attached document.

The reports are posted in the Ethiopian Public Health Institute website

<https://ephi.gov.et/research/health-system-research/>

Countdown to 2030 Women's children's and Adolescent's Health website

<https://www.countdown2030.org/publications/newborn-health-category/data-uptake-series-ethiopia-2023-2>

9. Manuscript preparation on - Work in progress:

Teams working on the following list of papers.

- Paper 1 - Cross-cutting paper: Building on Ethiopia's success to accelerate maternal and newborn survival. Submitted
- Paper 2 - Survival analysis of NMR and associated factors
- Paper 3 - The impact of quality in perinatal care on the reduction of NMR in Ethiopia
- Paper 4 - Ethiopia's health system performance: CCI, UHC, HSS index
- Paper 5 - Learning from Ethiopia's synergetic approaches to intersectional collaboration
- Paper 8 - Additional Maternal neonatal, child lives saved by intervention and stillbirth prevented by intervention: Live Saving Tool (LiST)

10. Communication of deliverables

- Technical reports mentioned above (Section 8) distributed to the different departments of Ministry of health, regional health bureau, universities, and participants during the dissemination workshop. The key findings also posted in the EPHI and MoH social media platforms.
- The summary of findings translated to local language "Amharic" and published on the national newspaper "Addis Zemen" entitle "Maternal and Neonatal health – key findings and Policy implication". [see in the attached document-Ethiopia Communication .pdf]
- The reports found in Ethiopian Public Health Institute website <https://ephi.gov.et/research/health-system-research/>

11. Financial Report:

Find the detail financial report in the attached document. Since the due date for the Country collaboration work was December 2022, no financial transaction made after sending the progress report by February 2023.