Countdown to 2030- Ethiopia Country Collaboration Study

&
Maternal and Neonatal Health Exemplar Study

Organized by:
Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Ethiopia
Countdown to 2030 for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health
Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia

Dissemination workshop Report

Learning from the past, planning for the future

December 22, 2022
Addis Ababa
Background

The Ethiopian HSTP-I 2015/16-2019/20 was due for end-line review, and was commissioned to conduct the review exercise at the beginning of 2020. This review was informed by statistical analysis of progress and performance at national and subnational levels, with data analyzed and synthesized in equity lens. The review process also incorporated review of literature and analysis of qualitative data collected from key informants’ interview (implemented as part of the exemplar study). As stipulated in the HSTP-I plan, the review was done jointly with key stakeholder, mainly with the Ministry of Health (MOH), and review progress against targets for outcome and impact indicators, as well as contextual changes. The national M&E plan was the key document for the assessment of progress and performance at the national and subnational levels.

The review also included a synthesis of the progress towards reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) indicators, as part of a Countdown to 2030 review study of the continuum of care to inform the program, and link to review of the RMNCAH area in the HSTP-II 2020/21 – 2024/25 period. This work is linked to the Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) exemplar study which aims to document the factors that might have contributed to significant gains observed in maternal and newborn survival in Ethiopia in the past three decades between 1990-2019. The MNH exemplar study in Ethiopia focused to identify the key drivers to success and learn more about the process of implementation of policies and programs to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in the past decades. However, Ethiopia’s national mortality rates conceal considerable variation between regions, suggesting that a sub-national approach was needed to learn more from not only national success stories and but also challenges at regional level.

The Countdown to 2030 (www.countdown2030.org) in collaboration with EPHI was commissioned to undertake these two interlinked initiatives: the Ethiopia-Countdown country collaboration and MNH exemplar study. The MNH exemplar study was implemented concurrently in such a way that findings feed into the endline review. The global Countdown team, comprised of technical experts from University of Manitoba, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and African Population Health and Research Center, and the local technical team from EPHI and MOH made up the Country Collaboration for Ethiopia-Countdown 2030 team (CC4EC-2030).

The global Countdown team main focus was providing technical support to local team at EPHI and MOH. Throughout the implementation phase of these two interlinked initiatives, CC4EC-2030 team worked closely with key stakeholders including MOH, Global Financing Facility (GFF) and Gates Venture (GV).

Objectives of the two projects

**Ethiopia-Countdown country collaboration** - To inform the end-line review of the HSTP-I 2015/16-2019/20 by preparing an in-depth analysis of progress and performance related to the targets of the plan, and to strengthen analytical capacity in EPHI, Ministry of Health and other public health institutions.

**MNH Exemplar** – To document and increase the understanding of the factors contributing to the decline in maternal and newborn mortality in Ethiopia during 1990-2019 through in-depth analyses and synthesis of data, including review of literature, and quantitative analysis of existing data and qualitative methods such as key informant interviews.

Objectives of the dissemination meeting

1. Disseminate findings from the two initiatives conducted over the last two years
2. Discussion on ways forward for continued collaboration with the MOH and other stakeholders, and agree on a plan to continue working on three thematic areas: MNH study, immunization and family planning, and a tentative date for a follow-up consultative meeting to:
   a. Review the objectives, methodology and draft detailed activity plan CC4EC-2030 team
   b. Review all existing data, analyses, and draft a detailed plans for each thematic area.
   c. Discuss the implications of the analysis (indicators, targets, data quality, gaps) re: midline review of HSTP-II
   d. Review and finalize expected outputs
Deliverables which are in the pipeline for production

- Endline review – printed with hard cover
- MNH exemplar study report – printed with hard cover
- Policy brief – more focused on findings from MNH exemplar study
- Statistical profiles / infographics
- Research summaries – concise version of executive summaries in each report
- Flyers

Strategies for dissemination under consideration

- Press release
  - This is mainly to disseminate information to the media as well as other organizations.
  - A short and concise summary of the process and findings will be developed. Notes to include:
    - Ensure to that key research findings are highlighted
    - Ensure to include organizations and individuals involved in the project.
    - Ensure to include contact information for whoever will be the media contact.
- Research report and summary
  - In addition to the two full reports that we have in the pipeline for production, concise version of executive summaries will be developed and shared with key partners and other organizations, with government, and with members of the academic community.
- Posters and brochures
  - Using brochures, flyers, and posters are effective strategy to disseminate information for a number of people quickly
  - Requires creating concise, easy-to-understand text that will communicate research findings with a broad population.
  - Proposed topics for poster presentation – all ongoing analysis for publications:
    - Coverage of key RMNCH interventions: antenatal care, delivery assisted by skilled provider, place of delivery, postnatal check-ups, family planning, child immunization
    - Quality of Health care services: Antenatal care and Postnatal care, Readiness of health facilities
    - Childhood Mortality and Malnutrition
    - Malaria, TB, HIV
    - Equity of Health care services: RMC health mortality and nutrition
    - Measuring the Ethiopia Health system performance
- In-person dissemination
  - A dissemination event will be hosted in 22 December 2022 Addis Ababa to present research findings
  - Ensure that those who take part in disseminating findings have a very thorough understanding of the project, including objectives, process, and conclusions.
  - A few oral presentations and posters will be used considered.
- Online distribution
  - Includes disseminating findings through the MOH, EPHI and Countdown websites and other partnering organizations, Countdown blogs and social media accounts, and online newsletters and magazines (yet to be identified).
  - Peer-reviewed publications. about 7-8 papers are a work in progress.
Panel Discussion

Background

The Ethiopian HSTP-I 2015/16-2019/20 was due for end-line review, and was commissioned to conduct the review exercise at the beginning of 2020. This review was informed by statistical analysis of progress and performance at national and subnational levels, with data analyzed and synthesized in equity lens.

The MNH exemplar study in Ethiopia focused to identify the key drivers to success and learn more about the process of implementation of policies and programs to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in the past decades. However, Ethiopia’s national mortality rates conceal considerable variation between regions, suggesting that a sub-national approach was needed to learn more from not only national success stories and but also challenges at regional level.

The main goals of this panel discussion are to assess how the Countdown to 2030 - Ethiopia country collaboration study has addressed evidence gaps in RMNCAH -N over the last three decades, how the evidence will be used by the ministry of health, and what major findings have been generated in this collaboration study. It helps in informing policymakers and program owners about the success elements that must be preserved and the issues that must be addressed in the health system through supported evidence. It also aimed to identify the important research topic areas in which the MoH need evidence to close the gap, so assisting in the achievement of national and international objectives; HSTP-II and SDG 2030.

Questions

Moderator: Prof. Mirkuzie (3 minute) Prof. Mirkuzie will briefly introduce each of the panellist with their name, current responsibility experience.

Panellist

1. Dr Getachew Tollera, Deputy Director General /EPhI
2. Dr. Meseret Zelalem, MCH -MoH
3. Naod Wendrad, PP MED -MoH
4. Dr Dessalegn Melese, Countdown to 2030

Moderator: Prof Mirkuzie Weldie

All questions focused on the research findings of MNH – exemplar and Endline review findings.

Allotted time: 2 hour and 15 minutes

Questions 1: Maternal and New-born Mortality

Dr. Meseret (3 minutes) what do you thinks the contributing factors to the reduction towards Maternal and neonatal mortality in Ethiopia? What remains at large? Please describe.

Dr Gethachew (3 minutes) what was the role of the research institutions like EPHI in the SDG era? Do you believe the researches have contributed towards policy reforms or not? Please explain.

Dr Dessalegn /countdown 2030/: (3 minutes) what factors do you feel have led to a reduction in global maternal and newborn mortality? Please explain.

Dr Dessalegn /countdown 2030/: (3 minutes) what was the roles of the international research organizations like Countdown to 2030 in the SDG era? Do you think the international research organizations outputs have contributed for policy changes or not? Please describe.

Question 2 Evidence utilization to achieve the SDG and HSTP-II
Dr. Meseret (3 minutes) how do you use the research for policy making likes the HSTP-I end line review and the MNH-exemplar study findings? What are the procedures you are using to incorporate evidences to policy? Please describe.

Naod (PPMED) (3 minutes) can you describe the role of policy makers or programmers like PPMED in the SDG era? and HSTP-II? Do you think the evidence generated in line with the country policy and strategy? Please describe.

Dr Gethachew (3 minutes) what will the HSTP-I end line review and the MNH-exemplar study findings contributed in the policy making process at the MoH especially to the HSTP II other policy documents?

Dr Dessalegn /countdown 2030/: (3 minutes) what was the role of research and evidence in the global policy making like SDG and HSTP-II towards MNH? With special emphasis on HSTP-I end line review and the MNH-exemplar study findings please describe.

Question 3 Evidence and Policy making

Dr. Meseret (3 minutes) although scientific evidence is vital for decision making, other contextual elements such as money, political pressure, convenience, and so on can affect judgments. What is the most crucial aspect in Ethiopian policymaking to the evidence generated like the MNH exemplar and endline review findings, in your opinion? What should Ethiopia's evidence-to-policy strategy be for MNCH policymaking? Please explain.

Naod (PPD) (3 minutes): same above

Dr Gethachew (3 minutes) how do you think the research institutions is focusing on policy gaps than doing a regular survey? Do you think there should be a mechanism to coordinate research and researchers in aligning research to policy and practice? Please describe.

Dr Dessalegn /countdown 2030/: (3 minutes) Through Countdown country collaboration study work so far, what have you identified as a gap in Ethiopia? What do you think the end line report review and MNH exemplar study findings will contribute to those gaps?

Question 4 Evidence-gap

Naod (PPD) (3 minutes): Where are there gaps in the data/evidence-base in the health system to formulate effective strategy or program in Ethiopia? Any practice of evidence driven policy/strategy in Ethiopia

All (3 minute each) anyone who wants to add more

Question 5 Expectation from the Countdown to 2030 next research thematic area

What do you expect from the next countdown to 2030 research effort? Which area of research to be prioritized? What indicators should be the focus area? How do you ready to take up the research findings and how do you implement the research findings?

All (2 minute each)

Question 6

Anything not mentioned or points to be raised or final remark on this dissemination event?

All (2 minute each)

Prof. Mirkuzie - (5 minutes) Open the panel for one or two questions each. The participants can ask questions addressing to a specific panellists - Give the panellists and opportunity to respond to the questions (5 minutes) - After one round the moderator will close the panel discussion by summarizing points discussed (5 minutes)

Prof. Mirkuzie summarizes the information raised during the panel discussion with emphasis on the major issues in the next Countdown to 2030 collaboration research work.
# Schedule

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<th>Moderator</th>
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<td>08:30-09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>EPHI</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00-09:05</td>
<td>Introduction/ Welcome remarks</td>
<td>Dr. Getachew Tollera, DDG -EPHI</td>
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<td>09:05-09:10</td>
<td>Key note address</td>
<td>Dr. Messay Hailu, DG- EPHI</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:10-09:20</td>
<td>Key note address</td>
<td>H.E. Dr Ayele Teshome, State Minister of Health</td>
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<td>09:20-09:30</td>
<td>Official opening</td>
<td>H.E.Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister of Health</td>
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<td>09:30-10:00</td>
<td>End-line review and MNH exemplar study: objectives, methods, processes, components</td>
<td>Dr. Theodros Getachew, Director, Health System Reproductive Health Research Directorate</td>
<td>Mr Naod Wendrad Director, Policy, Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, MoH</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:15</td>
<td>Ethiopia’s progress in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality</td>
<td>Dr Dessalegn Melese</td>
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<td>10:15-10:30</td>
<td>Interpreting Ethiopia’s progress with a mortality transition model</td>
<td>Prof Ties Boerma</td>
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<td>10:30-10:45</td>
<td>Coffee / Tea break and Group Photo</td>
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<td>10:45-11:00</td>
<td>Drivers of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Decline in Ethiopia; Highlights from the qualitative study</td>
<td>Geremew Gonfa and Dr Neil Spicer</td>
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<td>11:00-11:15</td>
<td>Policies and health system inputs and outputs: health work force, facilities, and financing</td>
<td>Tefera Taddele</td>
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<td>11:15-11:30</td>
<td>LiST analysis: Additional lives saved from interventions</td>
<td>Mulugeta Gagae</td>
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<td>11:30-11:45</td>
<td>Contextual factors and Health gains in Ethiopia</td>
<td>Dr Yohannes Dibbaba</td>
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<td>11:45-12:15</td>
<td>Main results of the end-line review</td>
<td>Ashenif Tadele</td>
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<td>12:15-12:30</td>
<td>Key policy-relevant evidence for action Focus: summary of key firings for policy and strategic planning</td>
<td>Ashenif Tadele</td>
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<td>12:30-1:00</td>
<td>Discussion – general reflections on key findings</td>
<td>Participants</td>
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<td>1:00-2:30</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<td>2:30-2:45</td>
<td>MOH priority areas for in-depth research Focus: brief highlights on thematic areas</td>
<td>Shegaw Mulu.</td>
<td>Prof Mirkuzie Wolfde Senior Research Advisor-Maternal and Child Health &amp; Nutrition Directorate, MoH</td>
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<td>4:00 – 04:15</td>
<td>Summary of discussions: agreed up plan for next phase</td>
<td>Ashenif Tadele</td>
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<td>04:15-04:30</td>
<td>Closure</td>
<td>EPHI</td>
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<td>04:30</td>
<td>Coffee / Tea</td>
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**Rapporteur:** Rapporteur – Asrat Arja and Dr. Dereje Bayissa

**Facilitator:** Organizing Committee
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| 09:30-10:00  | End-line review and MNH exemplar study: objectives, methods, processes, components | **Dr. Theodros Getachew**  
Dr. Theodros is a health system expert with biostatistics and medical laboratory background with over 15 years’ experience working in the Ethiopian health system. His research focuses on generating evidence about quality of care provided for child health in the context of integrated community case management. In addition, he is conducting a research activity across the health system and reproductive health; this has included evaluation of program, interventions, and strategies. currently he is a principal investigator of QuEST-Ethiopia, and Director of Health System & Reproductive Health Research Directorate at EPHI |
| 10:00-10:15  | Ethiopia’s progress in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality       | **Dessalegn Melesse, PhD.**  
**Dessalegn Melesse** is a data science expert with a PhD in Epidemiology, and an Assistant Professor at the Institute for Global Public Health, University of Manitoba, Canada. He is currently working with the Countdown to 2030 for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health. Dessalegn is contributing to the Countdown-Ethiopia Country Collaboration project, with particular focus on the review of Ethiopia’s health sector and exemplar study on maternal and newborn health. |
| 10:15-10:30  | Interpreting Ethiopia’s progress with a mortality transition model    | **Ties Boerma, Professor**  
**Ties Boerma** is medical doctor with a PhD in medical demography, and professor and Canada Research Chair for Population and Global Health at the Institute for Global Public Health, Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba, Canada, and Director of the Countdown to 2030 for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health. |
| 10:30-10:45  | Coffee / Tea break and Group Photo                                  |                                                                                                                                            |
| 10:45-11:00  | Drivers of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Decline in Ethiopia; Highlights from the qualitative study | **Geremew Gonfa**  
Mr. Geremew Gonfa is a health system and reproductive health researcher at EPHI. In the last eight years, he has been participated in the national and sub-national research design and implementation as a principal and co-investigator. Previously, Geremew worked as instructor in higher academic institution. He graduated with honors from Wollega University in Masters of Medical Anthropology and currently a PhD fellow at Addis Ababa University.  
**Neil Spicer, PhD – virtual**  
**Neil Spicer** holds a PhD in geography from the University of Glasgow, UK, and is currently an Associate Professor in global health policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Neil is contributing to the qualitative component of the Countdown to 2030 and Exemplars studies in Ethiopia. |
| 11:00-11:15  | Policies and health system inputs and outputs: health work force, facilities, and financing | **Tefera Tadele**  
Tefera Taddele is a senior researcher at EPHI. He has an MSc in Demography specialized in family planning management and 10 years experiences in a researcher position at EPHI. He has participated in more than 15 national surveys. He is now coordinating MNH E-cohort study. |
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<td>LIST analysis: Additional lives saved from interventions</td>
<td>Moderator: Mulugeta Gegea (PPMED-MoH) MPH in Biostatistics from the University of Gondar BSc in Statistics from Jimma University, Bachelor of Art in Accounting and Finance from Arsi University He worked in different research projects since 2014GC Currently working on Countdown 2030 project in EPHI on researcher position.</td>
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<td>Yohannes Dibaba Wado, PhD, is a research scientist at the African Population and Health Research Center based in Nairobi, Kenya. He is a population health researcher with several years of experience in research and monitoring and evaluation of programs in population and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Yohannes’s areas of research interest include family planning, adolescent health, SRHR in humanitarian settings, and the social determinants of health. Before joining APHRC, Yohannes worked for two and half years as Senior Advisor for Research and Evaluation with Ipas Ethiopia and as a lecturer at Jimma University in southwest Ethiopia. Yohannes has a PhD in Public Health and Master of Science degree in Population Studies.</td>
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<td>He holds MSC in Biostatistics, has more than 10 years working experience in research, he is a researcher and coordinator of Countdown to 2030, working in Health system &amp; reproductive health research directorate at EPHI</td>
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