CALL FOR PAPERS
9th African Population Conference Lilongwe – Malawi
May 20 – 24, 2024

Side Session
Using routine health facility data for reproductive, maternal, newborn and children health services coverage and mortality statistics in low- and middle-income countries

Background
Routine health facility data are essential sources for real-time monitoring of the coverage of health services for national and local planning and programming. They are frequent, timely and available at local levels. However, they are underutilized due to data quality issues and challenges in determining appropriate denominators for coverage statistics.

This session is an initiative from the Countdown to 2030 for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (CD2030). The CD2030 is a network of global, regional and country academic and research institutions working closely with UNICEF, WHO and other international organizations, as well as national institutions and civil society, to generate evidence for progress and performance of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH&N) programs and strengthen country capacity for data analysis and use (https://www.countdown2030.org). African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is an African-led and Africa based international research institute committed to conducting high quality and policy-relevant multidisciplinary research (https://aphrc.org). APHRC is leading the Countdown work in Sub-Saharan Africa. While the CD2030 covers all low- and middle-income countries, it has recently targeted 25 countries in Africa that are receiving support from the Global Financing Facility (GFF) de la Banque Mondiale and established direct collaborations that foster in-depth analysis of all available data, including routine health facility data, focusing on indicators included in country national RMNCAH&N plan.

The session will convene representatives among the 25 country collaborations teams to present and discuss findings from the analysis of routine health facility data. It aims to provide methodological and result driven insights to support a more effective use of routine health facility data to estimate population coverage of health services to drive planning and performance assessments. It will also focus on estimating denominators and reliable coverage measures from routine health facility data. The session will also discuss data quality issues, health service provision, content/quality of care and mortality, and to showcase country data and use of data to support local planning and monitoring.

Target countries
Countdown to 2030 Collaboration countries (https://www.countdown2030.org/country-collaborations). Applications from other African countries non-member of the collaborative initiative may also be considered if they can cover their travels costs.

Target audience
Public health specialists, health system researchers, epidemiologists, demographers, health policy makers, health information system specialists, civil society representatives and others.
Instructions for submitting abstracts and papers

Submissions are open March 10th to April 10th 2024, and are made online using the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdecC5AJVRYj355MOObOMNnBlppZSjS2G_rEfEqDCvX05fy5zw/viewform?usp=sharing

Submissions in English or French are accepted. Authors must submit a detailed abstract (3-5 pages) or full paper including along with background, methods, key results, and relevant discussions points sections. The submission also requires author and co-authors information, information about other sessions the submitting author will be participating, plans for travel, participation, etc.

Travel awards

The Countdown to 2030 will provide limited travel awards to applicants whose submission is accepted. The award includes travelling, accommodation, and subsistence expenses. Priority will be given to applicants from the Countdown initiative. However, we strongly encourage all applicants to explore alternative options to finance partially or totally their participation.

Important dates

- **March 10, 2024**  Online submission of full papers or detailed abstracts opens
- **April 10, 2024**  Deadline for submission of full papers or detailed abstracts
- **April 30, 2024**  Authors are notified about the decision of their submission and travel awards
- **May 22, 2024**  Date of the session *(date to be confirmed by the conference scientific committee)*

Contact

For any relevant questions, please contact Mrs. Corretta Tira (ctira@aphrc.org) copying in Dr. Martin Kavao (mkavao@aphrc.org) and Dr. Abdoulaye Maïga (amaiga1@jhu.edu).