

TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON THE TANZANIA PMNCH

Dar Es Salaam, April 23-24, 2007

In April 2007, a few days after its official launch at the Partners Forum of The Partnership, the Tanzania PMNCH hosted a technical consultation. The meeting assembled over forty partners, from all of the different constituencies. It was led by the Tanzania Ministry of Health and co-facilitated with The Partnership Country Support Working Group represented by UNICEF, The World Bank, WHO, Save the Children UK and the PMNCH Secretariat through its Deputy Director and Senior Adviser for Country Support.

The objectives of this consultation were:

- To catalyse partner reactions to the recommendations made to the Tanzania PMNCH during the Partners Forum
- To ensure commitment of partners
- To define a process for the development of a single Tanzania MNCH plan
- To review the MNCH related monitoring and reporting components of the Health Management Information System and Poverty Monitoring System to identify gaps and ways to strengthen data reporting and progress tracking.

The consultation consisted of plenary presentations, post presentation deliberations and group work. A total of ten presentations were made which covered issues ranging from Health Sector Reforms and SWAPS to strategies for tracking progress, passing through introductions to different funding mechanisms.

Group work was conducted in 4 multidisciplinary groups and focused on two topics: how to strengthen the structure and efforts of the Tanzania PMNCH and how to develop and operationalize a single integrated MNCH plan. Group findings were thereafter shared in plenary.

During the post group work plenary discussions, consensus was reached on some issues including the following: The existing Tanzania Roadmap for Maternal and Newborn Mortality Reduction is to be expanded to include child, thereby creating a single comprehensive MNCH plan for the country; the process used would therefore be one of building on existing strategies. It was also suggested that the treatment of newborns in the current Roadmap be revisited. Regarding the implementation, participants found that a district based focus would be more strategic. It was therefore agreed that a tracking system allowing for the identification of priority underserved districts needs to be developed and that in addition, a link between district and national plans needs to be established.

Groups also identified NGOs as an important resource and noted that the establishment of an NGO coordination mechanism could lead to greater efficiency, especially in terms of the conduct of activities and maximization of resources. The need to carry out a mapping exercise of partners' areas of intervention, resources and gaps was also recommended as a tool that could contribute to the facilitation of activity and resource coordination. Government leadership was praised and encouraged and the role of the Global Partnership as a supplier of technical support not only in terms of consultations but also through tangible templates and documentation was insisted upon.

The meeting ended with a list of recommendations made to the Tanzania Partnership based on the group work outputs and debates.

Recommendations

Coordination

- Finalize the TOR of the Tanzania steering committee with the support of the Global PMNCH
- Conduct mapping of partner support and interventions in Tanzania
- Local partners should provide direct support to the Secretariat of the Tanzania on a rotational basis. All support needs should be identified.
- Establish an NGO coordination mechanism
- Partners to provide support to constituencies during their meetings

Planning

- Create a comprehensive MNCH plan. It was agreed to expand the Roadmap for Maternal and Newborn Mortality Reduction by including the child component.
- Analyse the District Planning Guidelines in order to identify and fill gaps in addressing MNCH issues.
- Build capacity of staff at regional level in the supporting of districts planning processes
- Build capacity at district level in the inclusion of MNCH in district plan
- Elaborate an advocacy and resource mobilization strategy for MNCH

Implementation

- Assess the real necessities of different districts in order to identify dire need areas
- Identify and solve the bottlenecks hampering implementation and scaling up. Two key elements must be addressed: Strengthening the health systems and human resources
- Strengthen community interventions

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Identify key indicators by setting targets, and improve the availability and the quality of data.
- Ensure the measurement of interventions coverage at country level
- Ensure update and annual forum to share information. Use means of online communication

Presentations

1. [Background and History of PMNCH, Flavia Bustreo deputy Director of the PMNCH.](#)
2. [Summary of Key Issues of the PMNCH Partners Forum and Implications for Tanzania, Mamadou Diallo Senior Adviser Country Support, PMNCH.](#)
3. [Overview of the Tanzania Partnership, Catherine Sanga, Director Reproductive and Child Health, MOHSW Tanzania.](#)
4. [Role of the Tanzania Partnership in relation to the SWAP, Julie McLaughlin, The World Bank.](#)
5. [Overview of the Health Sector Reforms, Dr Faustine Njau, Head Health Sector Reform Secretariat Tanzania.](#)
6. [Overview of MNCH Plans in Tanzania, Reproductive and Child Health Section team, MOHSW Tanzania.](#)
7. [Practicality of Packages, Programs, Policies and Plans and Partnerships in MNCH, Joy Lawn, Saving Newborn Lives, Save the Children US.](#)
8. [Structure and Status of Monitoring and Reporting System Related to MNCH, M. Rubona Chair National M&E Committee Tanzania.](#)
9. [Linkages on MNCH/HMIS with Poverty Monitoring Systems and MDG Reporting Systems, Dr Chuwa, Director, National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania.](#)
10. [Tracking Progress in Child Survival, Nancy Tererri, MNCH Senior Adviser, UNICEF and Co-chair PMNCH Country Support Working Group.](#)