Technical Advisory Meeting of the Mother and Newborn Information for Tracking Outcomes and Results (MoNITOR) Group

1-3 December 2020

(Virtual Meeting)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mother and Newborn Information for Tracking Outcomes and Results (MoNITOR) Technical Advisory Group is tasked with providing independent, harmonised, and strategic advice for global and country teams engaged in maternal and newborn measurement and accountability. To mark the beginning of the second phase of MoNITOR, the group held its seventh meeting on 1-3 December 2020. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first two days of the meeting was attended by MoNITOR experts, H6 Steering Committee as well as external observers. The last day of the meeting was attended by MoNITOR experts and the H6 Steering Committee. This report outlines the discussion points and action items as a result of this meeting during the first two days.

Objectives of the meeting

- To launch the second phase of the MoNITOR technical advisory group;
- To review new evidence and metrics work for maternal and newborn health;
- To review priority measurement gaps and develop a workplan.

Updates to the MoNITOR Group structure

In order to fill in gaps in the expertise on technical topics within the MoNITOR group, five additional experts have been selected to join the MoNITOR group. In addition to the new experts, a Steering Committee composed of representatives of agencies of the Global Health Partnership H6, has also been established.
Updates on Maternal and Newborn measurement activities

A series of presentations were given to update the MoNITOR members on activities related to maternal and newborn health measurement:

- An overview of different WHO Advisory Groups that work on measurement: CHAT (Child Health Accountability Tracking), GAMA (Global Action for Measurement of Adolescent health), the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group of Experts (STAGE), TEAM (Technical Expert Advisory Group on Nutrition Monitoring) and the QoC Network;
- An overview of coordination activities related to monitoring and data work on indirect impact of COVID-19 on sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, and related resources;
- Maternal mortality measurement in the context of COVID-19, and the burden of maternal morbidity and how it relates to the measurement of maternal health functioning;
- Every Newborn-BIRTH study findings;
- The Service Provision Assessment (SPA) revision process;
- Every Newborn Action Plan coverage (ENAP) targets;
- Establishing Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality (EPMM) coverage targets;
- The revision of the framework and indicators for Emergency Obstetric Care (EmONC);
- The Newborn Measurement Evidence review;
- Quality of care indicators for small and sick newborns;
- IMPULSE Newborn indicator testing project;
- IMAGINE Euro (Improving MAternal Newborn carE In the EURO Region);
- Efforts to develop and operationalize indicators for integrated antenatal care service delivery;
- Preterm birth, low birth weight estimates and stillbirth estimates; and
- The skilled birth attendant (SBA) definition and targets for 2020-2025.

MoNITOR Toolkit

In the first phase of MoNITOR, an indicator Toolkit was developed. This Toolkit includes a comprehensive indicator database, indicator reference sheets for priority indicators, an indicator prioritization online tool, and a document with recommendations and case studies on maternal and newborn indicator testing and validation. The Toolkit has been finalized and was presented at the meeting.

Future work of MoNITOR

The MoNITOR experts and H6 Steering Committee convened during a third meeting day to discuss the terms of reference, workplan and future work.

Selection of Co-Chairs

Three new Co-Chairs will be selected for the second phase of MoNITOR.
**Action item:**
- The Secretariat invites MoNITOR experts to express interest in being a MoNITOR Co-Chair by sending an email to the MoNITOR inbox (monitor@who.int), including a justification for why they would like to undertake this function.

**Workplan for MoNITOR 2020-2023**

**Pilot testing of the MoNITOR Toolkit**

**Action item:**
- The Secretariat to draft a protocol for this pilot testing.

**Linking and coordinating with other groups**

MoNITOR will provide recommendations to the SPA revision. Momentum Country and Global Leadership (MCGL) and Momentum Knowledge Accelerator project will support this work and a webinar will be scheduled in early January to discuss and finalize recommendations.

**Sub-groups**

It was decided that the following sub-groups are to be formed:

- Quality of Care/Effective Coverage Measurement;
- Strengthening routine data systems;
- Maternal and Neonatal Morbidity;
- Strengthening Measurement of Skilled Health Personnel; and
- Mortality and cause of death.

Participation in one or several sub-group(s) is voluntary. Once the sub-groups are formed, an initial meeting will be set up for each sub-group to discuss which stakeholders to include in each group and which other groups to link with.

**Action items:**

- The Secretariat to draft terms of reference and scope of work for the five proposed sub-groups; and
- MoNITOR members to express interest in joining one or several sub-group(s) using the dedicated spreadsheet.

**Additional publications**

Suggested topics for publications to the developed by the MoNITOR group:

- Updated indicator mapping
- MoNITOR Toolkit
- Perinatal definitions
Dissemination plan

The Secretariat will look into opportunities to develop a communications plan for the dissemination of MoNITOR’s work, beyond through scientific journals.

The work of MoNITOR may be mentioned in relevant discussions during upcoming meetings of the Align MNH Platform.

MoNITOR website

**Action item:**

- Members who do not yet have their bio on the MoNITOR website, or who wish to update their information on the website, are asked to share a short bio and a profile photo to monitor@who.int.

Next MoNITOR meeting

It was decided that the next MoNITOR Technical Advisory Meeting takes place in April or early May 2021, and that sub-groups are scheduled to convene 1-2 days before that meeting.