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

Meeting Report:

18-20 November 2019

Geneva

World Health Organization
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mother and Newborn Information for Tracking Outcomes and Results (MoNITOR) Technical Advisory Group held its sixth meeting on 18-20 November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. This advisory group to WHO is tasked with providing clear, independent, harmonised, and strategic advice for global and country teams engaged in maternal and newborn measurement and accountability.

Meeting objectives

- To review new evidence and metrics work for maternal and newborn health;
- To finalize ongoing MoNITOR work, including the “Toolkit” and other documents;
- To discuss dissemination of findings and next grant.

Expected outcomes of the meeting

- Develop plans for dissemination of the “Toolkit” and next grant;
- Other areas of work identified.

Presentations on updates

A series of presentations was given to update the MoNITOR members on different topics related to maternal and newborn health measurement. Participants were given updates on the status of two MoNITOR products that are part of the Toolkit: the Maternal and Newborn Indicator Prioritisation Online Tool, as well as the Indicator Testing and Validation Manual. This was followed by updates from the CHAT (Child Health Accountability Tracking) and GAMA (Global Action for Measurement of Adolescent health) Groups.

Moreover, updates were given with regards to a perinatal registers project in high-income countries; the RMCAH HMIS module; the QED Network; the proposed revised Continuum of Care Graph; and revisions of the DHS-8 questionnaires.

Claire-Helene Mershon, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, presented a proposal to potentially fund a series of new maternal and newborn conferences. There was also an update given on the Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) management team meeting as well as a potential stillbirth meeting.

Discussion on indicator reference sheets

The MoNITOR members then discussed the status of the indicator reference sheets, which have been produced by the MoNITOR Group as part of the Toolkit, and which were close to completion at the time of the meeting. Feedback from the experts were collected in order to finalize the sheets. It was concluded that a final round of copy/edit across all sheets would be conducted in order to ensure accuracy and consistency.
Planning for the next phase of MoNITOR

As the Secretariat was planning on submitting a proposal for a new grant for a second phase of MoNITOR, the Group discussed and proposed what MoNITOR could focus on in this second stage, including in terms of outcomes; work streams/working groups; workplan and core focus areas; as well as new areas to which the Group may expand its focus (including selection criteria for these new areas). The members also discussed practicalities concerning future communication within the Group; the group constellation; selection of Co-Chairs; and interaction between Co-Chairs and the rest of the Group members.

Proposed workstreams/new areas of work

The members discussed new topics areas that the Group could potentially include in its future work. Based on certain selection criteria that the Group defined, the below workstreams were suggested. It was suggested that working groups (sub groups) are formed for these workstreams.

Morbidity, thrive and risk factors

- Linking with maternal nutrition;
- NCDs;
- Infectious disease (HIV, malaria, TB, Hep);
- Disability, functioning;
- Mental health;
- Newborn feeding (link with CHAT);
- Fistula;
- Violence.

Strengthening monitoring systems

- Strengthen routine data systems to collect data and other data collection platforms (e.g. DHS, MICS, HFAs);
- Which types of indicators to collect depending on strength of system “maturity model” (e.g. humanitarian/fragile);
- Electronic platforms;
- Data use.

Quality of care, effective coverage and UHC

- Experience of care, violence;
- Safety and harm of care (augmentation, C-section, episiotomy);
- Standards of care – common measures – Post-partum/Post abortion care family planning included;
- EC coverage cascades – UHC measurement of coverage;
- Financial protection.

Core work – other ideas

The Group also discussed what to focus on within its core areas. Suggestions include:

- Developing metrics around measuring competency of health care providers:
  - Competencies, behaviors
  - Supportive environment
  - Respectful care of providers and gender issues
- Computer assisted classification of cause of death (e.g. InterVA and others);
- Postpartum family planning and post-abortion care family planning;
  - To be included in the indicator mapping/database.
Workplan

With regards to specific activities to be included in the workplan, the following suggestions were made:

- **Timeline mapping of events and initiative**: It was suggested that the future workplan should take into consideration a mapping of important dates for other initiatives, groups and events within the MN community, including revisions of DHS and MICS; and major events and conferences.

- **Papers/commentaries, including**:
  - A commentary outlining achievements and learnings from the first three years of the MoNITOR Group (to be launched in conjunction with the release of the Toolkit).
  - An update on the indicator meta data database.

- **A one-pager**, outlining the role and objectives of MoNITOR.

Group constellation and Co-Chairing

It was decided that the number of experts of MoNITOR should be expanded, in order to fill gaps in terms of expertise related to the MoNITOR 2.0 activities as well as to ensure an adequate number of participants in each meeting.

New Co-Chairs will be selected for the second phase of MoNITOR. The selection of Co-Chairs will be based on set criteria, reflecting a good balance of sex; geographical representation and background areas (e.g. academia, M andE, government representation).

Next steps:

- All current MoNITOR members to confirm whether they want to remain members of the MoNITOR Group during its second phase.
- MoNITOR members to submit bios and photos for the MoNITOR website.
- The Secretariat to develop at call for additional members of the MoNITOR Group when new grant is approved.
- The Secretariat to develop terms of reference for Co-Chairs, and for interested candidates amongst MoNITOR members, to nominate themselves.

Next MoNITOR meeting

The next MoNITOR meeting date to be determined.