

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

**Meeting Report
15 -16 June 2017**

Geneva



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mother and Newborn Information for Tracking Outcomes and Results (MONITOR) group held its second meeting on 15 and 16 June in Geneva, Switzerland. This advisory group to WHO is tasked with providing clear, independent, harmonized, and strategic advice for global and country teams engaged in maternal and newborn measurement and accountability. The meeting had three objectives:

1. Review and discuss existing maternal and newborn health indicators;
2. Discuss gaps and need for development of indicators and measurement platforms; and
3. Plan for work programme for second year of MONITOR.

A mapping of maternal and newborn indicators and framework for organizing the indicators was presented and discussed as a starting point for the discussions. Over the course of the two-day meeting, there were a series of presentations including from Bangladesh and Ethiopia on MNH indicators and data platforms, and other metrics groups working on MNH indicators and data platforms¹. The MONITOR advisory group then spent the rest of the meeting time discussing two topics: 1) MNH indicators; and 2) data collection platforms with the aim of recommending next steps for moving forward. For participants not on the MONITOR technical advisory group, there were parallel work sessions on indicators for the Quality of Care Network as well as DHIS2 data visualization.

The MONITOR technical advisory group provided the following recommendations:

MNH indicators

1. Develop searchable indicator database with guidance sheets
2. Country level guidance for indicator selection and prioritization
3. Develop country case studies to determine what guidance is required and how the guidance is used
4. Research agenda to move aspirational indicators to functional indicators

Data collection platforms

1. Map/review different approaches which try to establish “individual data collection” in HMIS (in other disease areas) to inform the development of individual HMIS system for MNH
2. Country case studies where countries have established a good multi-platform system (linking with MNH indicators)
3. Map HMIS data quality tools in different areas/different countries

In terms of action items, the group agreed on the following:

¹ All presentations are available in Dropbox:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/v2gj66od58mhex5/AAAYXJ8scZ5FG5SDxh2iN6Tza?dl=0>.

1. Finalize and publish the MNH mapping and analysis.
2. Develop guidance sheets for priority indicators and additional indicators, linking to HDC data platform as appropriate.
3. Develop concept note for country case studies, including criteria for country selection and template for feedback from the MONITOR advisory group. It was agreed that there would be a minimum of five case studies.
4. Develop prioritized research agenda for indicator testing and validation, including guidance for indicator validation.

The group also discussed products for the second year of MONITOR including:

- A commentary about the work of the MONITOR
- A publication on the MNH mapping and analysis
- Case studies on platforms and indicators
- Guidance sheets on selected indicators
- Prioritized research agenda for testing aspirational indicators in collaboration with ongoing efforts
- Coordination with the Health Data Collaborative data platform, including additional indicators as feasible

The next webinar will be held in November 2017 to review progress to date, with the next in-person meeting planned for February 2018.