

## Country-Owned RMNCH Scorecards for Accountability and Action

### Background

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#### *The ALMA Scorecard*

The ALMA Scorecard for Accountability and Action is a mechanism through which ALMA Heads of State and Government track progress in malaria control and in tracer maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) metrics within their own countries and across the continent. It represents an important tool for identifying African-owned and led solutions. The ALMA Scorecard was developed in response to a request from ALMA Heads of State and Government for a progress-tracking and action mechanism to facilitate country comparisons and to increase transparency and accountability around national action. The Scorecard visually highlights in which specific areas countries are doing well and in which areas they are experiencing bottlenecks and slower progress. Progress and action is being tracked through the ALMA iPad application and through regular communication with ALMA focal points and advisors to the Heads of State and Government.

#### *Expanding the approach to country owned MNCH scorecards*

Following the success of the ALMA Scorecard, there has been increasing interest at the global- and country-level in establishing additional accountability and action scorecards, including for MNCH. It is intended that country MNCH Scorecards will provide a tool to easily track and compare performance sub-nationally for key indicators while enhancing performance transparency, strengthening accountability and encouraging action.

#### *Ethiopia and Nigeria MNCH Scorecards*

In June 2012, the Honourable Minister of Health of Ethiopia requested that ALMA assist the Ministry of Health in developing a high-level RMNCH accountability and action scorecard. This RMNCH scorecard is an integrated action-oriented accountability mechanism that provides a senior management-level perspective to enable decision-making, accountability and action across key RMNCH issues, including child survival, reproductive and maternal health and nutrition.

In July 2012, the Honourable State Minister of Health for Nigeria requested ALMA to support the development of a scorecard for the Saving One Million Lives (SOML) initiative.

### Results

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#### *Ethiopia*

The Ethiopia MNCH Scorecard was completed in November 2012 and consists of national level indicators outlining key priority areas, and regional summaries of progress against 19 priority indicators. The MS Excel-based database backend

MEMBERS

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Chad
- Comoros
- Republic of Congo
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

generates an automated scorecard output each quarter to provide a high-level overview of regional and national performance. Regional reports accompany the scorecard to highlight key recommended actions for regional and national level. The scorecard also links into the Federal Ministry of Health's existing performance management process.

ALMA is also assisting in the development of a web-based application for the scorecard, which will facilitate immediate dissemination of the scorecard and regional reports, as well as allow for historic performance comparisons and for regions to give feedback on key recommended actions between quarters.

### *Nigeria*

The Honourable State Minister of Health for Nigeria requested ALMA to support a scorecard for the SOML initiative, building upon the methodology developed in Ethiopia. This scorecard tracks progress across the six pillars of the SOML initiative (maternal and newborn health, immunization, nutrition, malaria, essential medicines, and PMTCT) as well as the cross-cutting areas of health financing and supply chain management. The number of lives saved is tracked using data generated by the lives saved model. The scorecard generates state quarterly reports which track progress against indicators, and is used to generate and track progress against recommended actions. The scorecard is intended to be used both at political level, at the Governors' Forum, as well as with state-level health personnel, and between different pillars.

ALMA is currently updating the training manual and overall facilitator's guide based upon the Nigeria experience, and training of FMOH staff is currently ongoing and ALMA will provide follow-up support in early 2013.

### **Next Steps**

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The Ethiopia MNCH scorecard experience was presented by the Federal Ministry of Health at the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the WHO/AFRO Regional Committee meeting in November 2012. Following the presentation, Angola, Burkina Faso, Chad, Lesotho and South Africa requested support in MNCH scorecard development. Prior to the meeting, Liberia, Mozambique and Sudan had already requested support to develop an MNCH scorecard. ALMA is currently working to identify an appropriate and efficient mechanism to support countries expressing interest in developing MNCH scorecards and accountability and action mechanisms.

Additionally, the Ethiopia MNCH scorecard was presented at the 'African Leadership for Child Survival-A Promise Renewed' meeting in January 2013. In attendance were Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Health from 12 countries throughout Africa, as well as senior health policy makers from many other countries. Nigeria also shared their experience to date in scorecard preparation. The Honourable Minister of Health of Ethiopia recommended all the countries to promote the scorecard approach to hold themselves accountable and to commit to working with the African Union for the creation of a pan-Africa MNCH scorecard to be adopted by all Heads of State and Government.

ALMA congratulates the Heads of State and Government, together with their Ministers of Health, who are considering this model for monitoring progress and enhancing accountability in the health sector.