



**BI3/12 - 13th PMNCH Board Meeting**  
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# Harmonising RMNCH Initiatives

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# Agenda

- Sub-group on harmonisation
- Approach and process
- Results
- Proposed next steps

## Sub-group on harmonisation

- In August 2012, the Donor and Foundation constituency set up a small sub-group to explore synergies across the recent RMNCH initiatives
- Its aim was to also set in motion activities towards better defining the Partnership's role in facilitating this harmonization and with EWEC
- The group was made up of DFID (Chair), Sida, Norad, BMGF, and USAID
- Prior to this Board meeting the sub-group met twice, with many bilateral exchanges in between to take the work forward

# Approach and process

- Examine the current RMNCH initiatives to better understand potential synergies and gaps, particularly from country perspective, including:
  - Family Planning Summit (FP)
  - Child Survival Call to Action/ A Promise Renewed (Child Survival)
  - MCH Commodities Commission (Commission)
  - Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement
- Semi-structured interviews with the Chair of the donor group in 4 countries: Ethiopia, Nepal, Nigeria, and Tanzania to focus on country perspective
- The questions focused on issues of:
  - Involvement of Government/ stakeholders
  - National coordination
  - Monitoring and reporting

# Results – Ethiopia

- View FP and Child Survival as interrelated initiatives, giving impetus to national plans and activities (e.g. in 2013 Ethiopia will host International FP conference)
- No dramatic shift after joining SUN, but has been helpful for political buy-in
- No impact from the Commission, but high costs of commodities an issue
- As national plans exist, global initiatives fitted within these and not vice versa

# Results – Ethiopia

- Ministry led MNCH TWG and RH WG coordinate interaction with initiatives
- There is no evidence that initiatives have created additional reporting burden
- PMNCH plays valuable role in identifying best practice and in advocacy; could play a stronger role in linking sectors (e.g., gender, transport, etc.) with health

# Results – Nepal

- Government of Nepal has been engaged at the national level in several of the recent major initiatives – Call to Action, FP Summit, Scaling Up Nutrition.
- GON effectively leverages international interests with its National Plan – e.g. is nutrition, which is a priority for the government.
- Implementation in Nepal is focused on District level, at which the international initiatives are less visible.
- National systems of data and reporting exist and used for domestic planning and implementation, but do not interface effectively with demands for international reporting.
- Donor coordination is effective.

# Results – Nigeria

- Federal level engaged globally and has effectively integrated global interests/initiatives with Saving One Million Lives (SOML) and National Health Development Plan
- State and local levels in Nigeria are largely unaware of global initiatives
- Global initiatives are often reflected in vertical programs housed in one part of the Ministry or parastatals, without necessarily achieving the envisioned scale or sustainability without external support
- Coordination within the government, between government and donors, and within the donor partner community could be improved
- Lots of data is generated (e.g. National Population Council) but not always used.
- GON is frustrated by demands for too many reports in too many distinct formats



# Results – Tanzania

- Global initiatives are well aligned to national development strategies, to sector and sub-sector strategies (e.g. National Health Sector Strategy and MNCH Roadmap)
- Global initiatives have given added impetus to national goals
- Family planning
  - CPR targeted under Global Strategy
  - Additional commitments made at FP Summit to reach goal
  - Post London Minister's Briefing Meeting
- Nutrition:
  - SUN → National Nutrition Strategy, a draft implementation plan , recruitment of district-level nutrition officers and other action

# Results – Tanzania

- Implementation challenges, competing priorities and limited Government capacity
- Current national data monitoring and reporting processes are likely to be insufficient for requirements of global initiatives (HMIS weak, DHS insufficient for district-level planning)
- Initiatives could provide opportunity to strengthen national monitoring and reporting mechanisms, but danger of increased burden if monitoring requirements are not embedded in national systems

# Synthesis of findings

- Countries themselves might not find the multiple initiatives confusing or competing, but rather effectively “follow the money” and define the ways these initiatives are supportive of national plans
- Initiatives don’t always trickle down to subnational level with the same branding (and perhaps that is appropriate)
- Reporting requirements against the initiatives is a potential issue.

# Proposed next steps

- Need to continue work and engage other perspectives
- As reporting requirements are defined for each initiative, these should be aligned and clearly positioned under EWEC – role of PMNCH?
- Potential role for
- is to prepare tools that can be used at country level to understand each initiative and opportunities.