Regional Initiatives and South-South cooperation for RMNCH

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Role of regional institutions for RMNCH

- Prioritize health as a development priority
  - Impacting national resource allocation
  - Inform and harmonize national, regional and global agendas

- Create an enabling environment
  - Regional collaboration
  - Free trade / reduced pricing of goods and services
  - Regional knowledge exchange / successful practices and innovations
  - Improving determinants of health
  - Engaging partners across sectors e.g. parliamentarians, NGOs

- Promote accountability
  - Regular reporting on key performance indicators e.g. scorecards
  - Aligning accountability approaches e.g. maternal and child death reviews
Where the burden lies: Africa and Asia

Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births 1990–2010, by UNICEF region

Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, 1990 to 2008


In addition to global estimates, countries also need real-time actionable data (e.g. polio surveillance)
African Union

- Prioritization of RMNCH at the highest level
  - Regional campaigns, strategies and frameworks
  - Head of State Summit
  - Pan African Parliament
  - Ministers of Finance
  - Africa Civil Society Coalition on MNCH
  - Africa MNCH Taskforce

- Integration of Global Strategy with regional frameworks

- Opportunities for continued engagement
  - Advocacy (cross-sectoral)
  - Accountability mechanisms
  - Sub-regional cooperation
Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC)

- 2003 – Health Working Group (HWG) established to address health-related threats to economies' trade and
  - Focus: infectious diseases
  - Target: increased collaboration with ASEAN

- 2009 - Leaders committed to build up capacity to respond to emergency diseases

- 2012 - The HWG as part of their workplan, will focus on improving maternal and child welfare
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- Healthcare – Roadmap for the Integration of the Healthcare Sector as one of 12 priority sectors to help drive ASEAN integration
  - Tariff reduction
  - Less restrictive intra regional trade = rules of origin
  - Facilitate customs procedures
  - Harmonization of standards (medicines, devices etc.)
  - Movement of skilled labour and patients
  - Capacity building
  - Joint research and development

- 2011 ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights – Shared best practices and regional approaches on reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, and ensuring maternal health in the ASEAN region
Parliamentarians, civil society and youth

- Asia Pacific Parliamentary forum
- Asia Forum of Parliamentarians for Population and Development
- ASEAN Youth Movement - increased transparency of ASEAN, independence of AICHR, a focus on the social impacts of economic and trade policies (food security–farmers), education and rights
- Asia Youth Forum - statement 2012 calling for better protection and promotion of SRHR and services. Youth have committed to setting up a mechanism for accountability and increasing collaboration with civil society organizations, the government and media to ensure results
- Asia Pacific Forum - national human rights commissions
- Regional Civil Society Networks
BRICS

G7 and BRICS: Estimated Annual Growth of Foreign Assistance Programs (2005-2010) and Absolute Assistance (2010) (% USD)

- Increased development cooperation: financing, capacity building, new tools and strategies (technology transfer, innovation)
- Improved access to affordable essential medicines

Agenda setting - growing focus on food insecurity / food price volatility

Sustained balanced growth – based on stronger social safety nets (including health care)

Source: OECD
PMNCH activities in Africa and the Asia Pacific

- Tunis meeting of Ministers of Finance and Health in July 2012 (as member of Harmonization for Health in Africa)

- Collaboration with the Africa Civil Society Coalition on RMNCH on advocacy around:
  - Pan African Parliament
  - AU meetings of ministers of health (and other sectors)
  - National civil society advocacy in support of the implementation of the RMNCH Integrated Strategy

Strategic areas for regional RMNCH cooperation

- Harmonizing national, regional and global initiatives
- Knowledge exchange (south-south learning), e.g. experiences on how to scale up essential interventions
- Development cooperation, including financial
- Technical assistance from regional institutions e.g. to provide real time actionable evidence for policy
- Promoting accountability across countries with leadership dialogue to support remedial action
Thank you