

Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA)

*NETWORK OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES OF HEALTH
(NEAPACOH) MEETING*

June 28th



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Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa

Every day:

- Nearly 800 women across the globe die due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth
- 29 000 children under 5 die from preventable causes
- Progress made in MDGs-
 - Huge unfinished to ensure MCH----- various challenges to be addressed in SDGs



Generating research that can make a difference.....



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IMCHA Goal



- To improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes by strengthening health systems



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Design

Two inter-related program components

- Implementation Research Teams (IRTs)
- Health Policy and Research Organizations (HPRO)

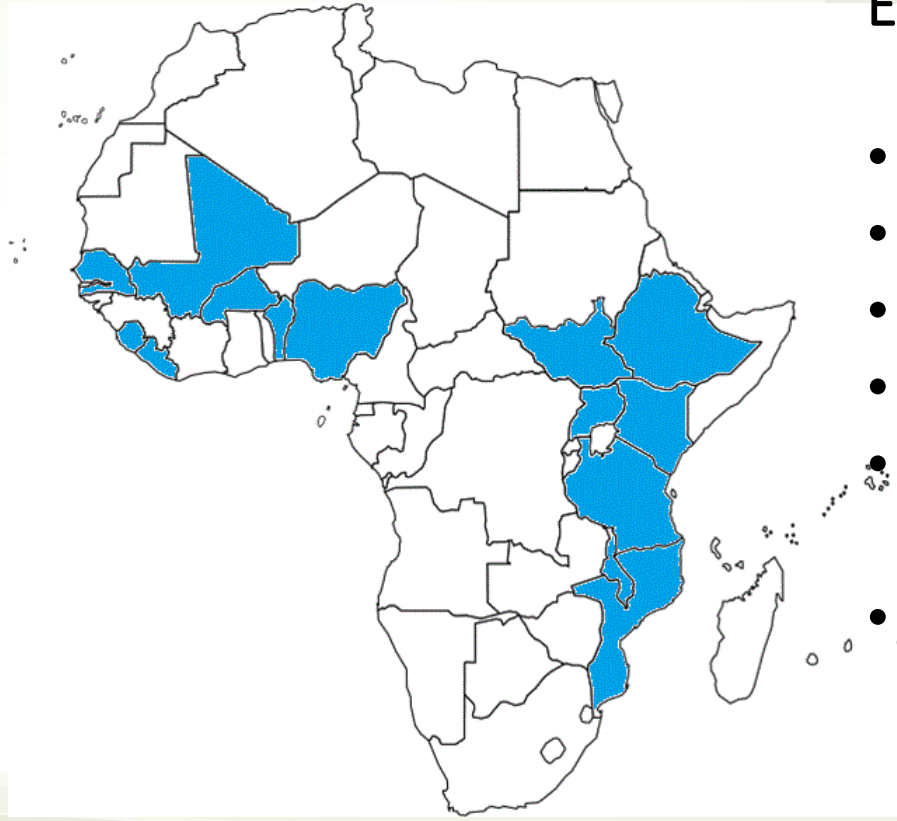


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Implementation Research Teams (IRTs)

Western Africa (7)

- 2 Mali + Burkina Faso*
- 3 Nigeria
- 1 Senegal
- 1 Senegal + Benin*



Eastern Africa (13)

- 2 Ethiopia
- 2 Malawi
- 1 Mozambique
- 6 Tanzania
- 1 South Sudan + Uganda*
- 1 South Sudan + Sierra Leone + Liberia + Uganda*



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Implementation Research Teams: Goals

- Generate evidence on interventions and their effective implementation and/or scale-up to improve **health** and **health equity** outcomes.
- Address **health systems** challenges and strengthen health systems using **primary health care** as an entry point in the targeted countries.
- Generate **new knowledge** about how interventions work, for whom, and under what conditions.



ITRs thematic research areas

- High impact community based maternal, newborn and child health interventions
 - Community health workers
 - the effect of different training approaches and incentive mechanisms
 - M-Health
 - the effect of various mobile-based solutions for community education; improving health information systems
- Quality improvement models at facility level
- Costing of various health interventions



Health Policy and Research Organizations: Goal

- Facilitate uptake of evidence emerging from the IRTs and other relevant studies
- Build coherence and facilitate mutual learning across the IMCHA program
- Strengthen individual and institutional capacities in implementation research and research use



Health Policy Research Organizations

West Africa
HPRO
-WAHO



East Africa-HPRO:
APHRC +ECSA -
HC+ PPD

*Multi-country studies



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EA HPRO Goal

Improve translation of research evidence and learning into practice for effective policy and programmatic MNCH interventions



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EA HPRO Objectives

The change we want to see

- **National:** Identify and maximize opportunities for *policy change* for MNCH issues in the five countries.
- **Regional:** Build *consensus for MNCH issues* to drive policy outreach at national and regional levels.
- **Institutional:** Strengthen the *capacity* of IRTs for *long-term and systematic engagement with decision makers* in their respective countries for more effective uptake of the evidence they generate.



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Strategy

Facilitation

Institutionalization



Context & Capacity Assessments

Research Support

Evidence synthesis

Support for National Research Uptake

Networking and Alliance Building

Capacity Strengthening

Linkages with national institutions & KT Networks

Regional agenda-setting forums

- Policy context, stakeholder mapping, capacity of IRTs and their institutions

- Training in research approaches
- Collating resources for knowledge management

- To kick start policy engagement before research findings become available

- Develop & implement SCPE plans
- Facilitate linkages with engagement opportunities
- Development of materials

- Providing opportunities for IRT participation and learning amongst themselves, and other KT and platforms
- resources support

- Guided by expressed capacity needs
- Research methodology and research uptake approaches
- Target IRTs and key MNCH stakeholders
- Continuous support
- Aim is to build capacity for longer-term effective research uptake

- Focus on common regional MNCH agenda
- Joint actions with WAHO-HPRO

- Participation in regional agenda setting forums
 - ECSA-HC BPF and Min of Health Conference
 - NEAPACOH and EA RHN
- Focus on new commitments and accountability for existing commitments



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Action.....

- Need to recognize maternal new born and child health as a top priority in health planning
- Address MNCH policy and program issues focusing on:
 - Equity
 - Gender
 - Health systems factors



Equity is Important for MNCH Programs

- **Health Equity:** *"Absence of unfair and avoidable health differences among social groups"* WHO, 2010
- Do the **poorest** and **most vulnerable** populations have access to MNCH services?
 - How will a woman who lives 3 hours away from the nearest health facility seek treatment for her sick child?
 - How will an unemployed family raise enough money to pay the expensive medical bills?
 - How will a family possess the knowledge that they need to seek medical care for their child?

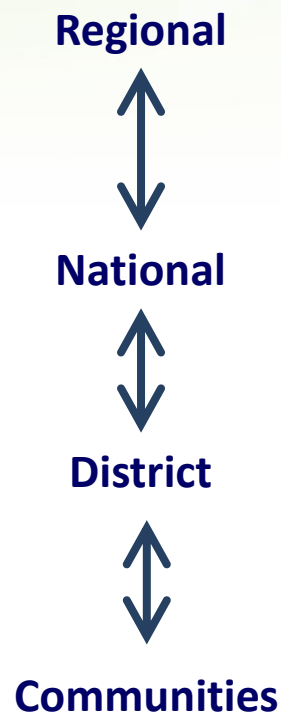


Gender is Important for MNCH Programs

- Can mothers **access** services?
 - **Social norms** surrounding gender -influence **decision-making** and **access to resources**
 - Who is valued for what? Who decides what?
 - Who does what? Who has what?
 - **Mothers status influences the child's health**
 - Over half of the reductions in the number of underweight children between 1970 and 1995 were due to improvements in the **mother's status and education level**
- (Smith & Haddad 2000)*



Conductive Health System Factors





Thank you



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Other slides

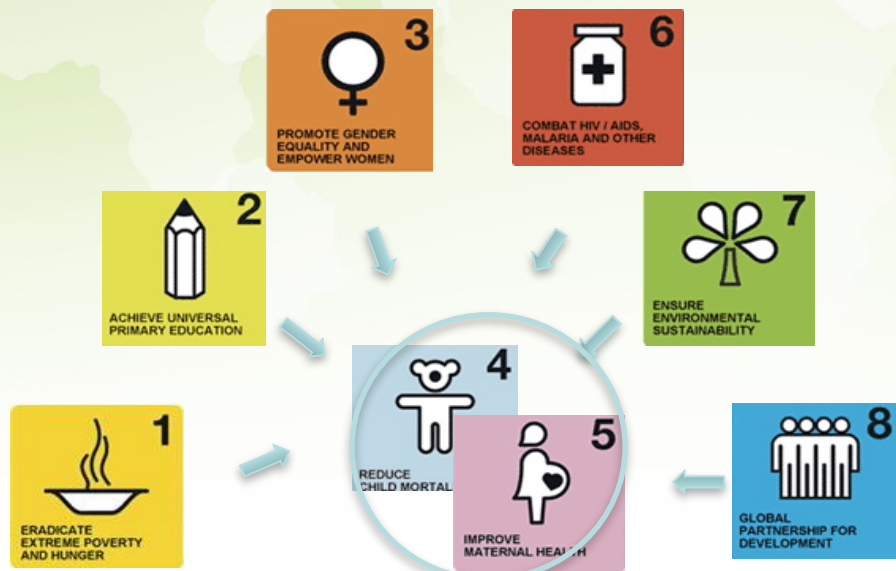


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Going From Evidence → Policy → Action in MNCH



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MATERNAL, NEONATAL AND CHILD HEALTH (MNCH) amongst the key target areas in the Millennium Development Goals of 2000

Goal-5: Improve Maternal Health

Target: **Reduce** maternal mortality ratio by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015

Goal-4: Reduce child mortality

Target: **Reduce** by < 5 mortality rate by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015.



SOME KEY MILESTONES IN MNCH AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

1948

- THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1987

- INTERNATIONAL SAFE MOTHERHOOD CONFERENCE (Nairobi)

1997

- SAFE MOTHERHOOD INITIATIVE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY
- De-emphasis training TBA
- Maternal death as multisectoral problem
- Comprehensive advocacy campaign increased visibility of & support for maternal health.

1999

- Making Pregnancy Safer project

2000

- MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: 4TH & 5TH*

2003

- SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH as integral comp. of health rights

2005

- PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)*



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