

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

Executive Summary

25-27 July 2023



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This meeting was organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing (MCA). We gratefully acknowledge the administrative support given to the meeting by Merve Pillonel.

Moreover, we thank the experts of the MoNITOR Technical Advisory Group, the H6 steering Committee, as well as the external observers, for their valuable contributions to this meeting.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objectives of the meeting:

- To welcome the new advisory group members and review revised terms of reference;
- To review and provide feedback on ongoing maternal and newborn metrics work;
- To develop the workplan for MoNITOR 2023-2028.

Expected outcomes:

- Develop MoNITOR workplan for 2023-2028;
- Other areas of work identified.

Strategic priorities for 2023 – 2028

Suggested top-level priorities for MoNITOR:

- Mapping existing indicators/initiatives and how they link to other relevant areas
- Harmonizing measurement for maternal and newborn health through different data collection platforms
- Strengthening guidance and tools for data collection and use of data for decision making

MoNITOR Online Indicator Toolkit

Next steps for the MoNITOR Online Indicator Toolkit:

1. The database will be updated based on recent mapping of MNH indicators.
2. Indicator reference sheets will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.
3. Dissemination of the updated MoNITOR Online Indicator Toolkit by December 2023.
4. Integrating the MoNITOR Online Indicator Toolkit into the Online Life Course Indicator Toolkit by 2025.

Updates from the measurement community

EPMM-ENAP Measurement Improvement Roadmap and alignment with global Quality of Care metrics workstreams and other efforts

There are currently three ENAP EPMM joint coverage targets for achieving ANC4, SBA, and PNC. However, there is a need to ensure that additional measures are added to track progress toward quality of care during antenatal, intrapartum, and postnatal care to supplement the coverage targets. The Quality of Care metrics group is also reviewing the common measures for Quality of Care. As a result, experts will collaborate on several activities to develop:

- Quality measures for each of the ENAP EPMM three coverage targets.
- Review and update of the common Quality of Care measures (including processes and outcomes).

This process will be completed in two phases:

- Phase 1: Selecting a smaller number of EPMM-ENAP QoC targets (core indicators) for which nationally representative data is available (DHS/MICS), i.e. what can be measured *now*.
- Phase 2: Consider incorporating QoC targets using RHIS data for the future.

Next steps:

- A small group will identify the different data collection platforms available, and what core targets we know can be measured already now (whether through HMIS, HIS or other systems).
- MoNITOR to work with the ENAP-EPMM metrics group to see if other stakeholders want to join in this effort. We plan to present a shorter list before our next MoNITOR meeting,
- Organise a webinar before the next MoNITOR meeting to get feedback on that shorter list.

Phase 2 will take place in parallel.

Updates on measurement across the life course

Updates were given from various measurement technical advisory groups and working groups:

- **The Child Health Accountability Tracking (CHAT) TAG.**
- **The Global Action for Measurement of Adolescent health (GAMA) TAG.**
- **The WHO Indicator Governance working group**
 - **Relevance to MoNITOR:** The Terms of Reference for the Indicator Governance Working Group are very much aligned with what MoNITOR is doing. The MoNITOR guidance is used to develop guidance across the life stages and for quality of care.
 - **Relevance to MoNITOR:** Guidance from MoNITOR is recommended to become a standard guidance for indicator validation and testing.
 - **Relevance to MoNITOR:** The MoNITOR Online Indicator Toolkit will be used as a template/best practice case for the rest of the catalogue of indicators across WHO departments.
- **Life Course Quality of Care Metrics Technical Working Group (LCQM-TWG)**

Indicators for Family planning, Fistula, and Obstetrics: Safe surgical indicators for maternal health in routine health information systems

MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics is a USAID-funded project that supports service-strengthening across three core technical areas: 1) surgical obstetric care (caesarean delivery and peripartum hysterectomy); 2) obstetric and iatrogenic fistula prevention and treatment; 3) and voluntary, long-acting reversible contraceptives and permanent methods. Their work aligns with the MoNITOR objectives, in particular objective 2 around convening maternal and newborn measurement initiatives to avoid duplication and coordinate messages to national and international communities.

A review of indicators identified from 13 global lists (incl. the MoNITOR list) resulted in a list of 47 indicators easily captured using RHIS data. Out of these, 29 indicators are not measured by any of the nine countries participating in the study.

Indicator validation case studies on maternal and newborn health

The Online Life Course Indicator Toolkit will include an updated guidance on validation and testing of indicators, including case studies and examples from across the life course. Based on the work supported by MoNITOR, the maternal and newborn case studies have been developed, and case studies will be developed for the other phases of the life course (child, adolescent, and older persons). From the seven case studies in the existing indicator validation and testing guidance, MoNITOR will need to identify two or three for inclusion in the Online Life Course Indicator Toolkit.

Action point: LSHTM will send an email with more information and criteria for selection of the maternal and newborn case studies. Perinatal Mental Health Monitoring Framework.

Burnet Institute has been working together with WHO to develop an indicator framework for monitoring perinatal mental health. A scoping review of existing indicators was completed in July 2023. The indicators identified in the scoping review fall within the individual domain (8 indicators) and the service delivery ecosystem domain (2 indicators). To identify additional, possibly relevant, indicators, the team also mapped indicators that are related to mental health and the theory of change, but that are not yet validated in the perinatal period. The current list of indicators was presented.

The next step, will be for the team to prioritise the identified indicators, based on a set of criteria such as relevance, actionability, and data availability. The result will be presented during the next MoNITOR meeting, and the list of indicators will then be finalised by November/December 2023.

Core MNH indicators for pregnancy safety monitoring (WHO MNHDS)

WHO is developing guidance on strengthening monitoring of the safety of medicines and vaccines during pregnancy. A harmonised list of indicators was developed for surveillance of maternal, foetal and newborn outcomes including exposures to medicines and vaccines. The core list of indicators was developed using the MoNITOR online indicator database to ensure consistency. The core list of indicators includes immunization and vaccine safety.

Indicators for extreme heat and MNH

WHO is currently working as part of a larger initiative to assess impact of extreme heat on maternal, newborn and child health. An expert meeting was held in May 2023 to review the conceptual framework and process for developing the indicators. The conceptual framework was presented and MoNITOR will have an opportunity to review the proposed indicators in future meetings.

Action point: The MoNITOR experts were invited to provide feedback on the proposed conceptual framework via email.

WHO MNCAH monitoring and measurement resources and RHIS MNCAH indicators

WHO presented selected MNCAH monitoring and measurement resources available through WHO, as well as the results of the consultation on a small set of core MNCAH indicators for collection through routine data systems.

MoNITOR publications

Several manuscripts are under development.

Action item: Meeting participants are welcome to share ideas of topics that are relevant for MoNITOR and that may be covered in peer-reviewed papers.

Next meeting

The next meeting will tentatively be held either early December 2023 or in January 2024.

Action point: MoNITOR members to inform the Secretariat if they have any conflicting dates in December 2023 or in January 2024.