

Overview of WHO materials to support programme reviews for maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health

April 2024



World Health
Organization

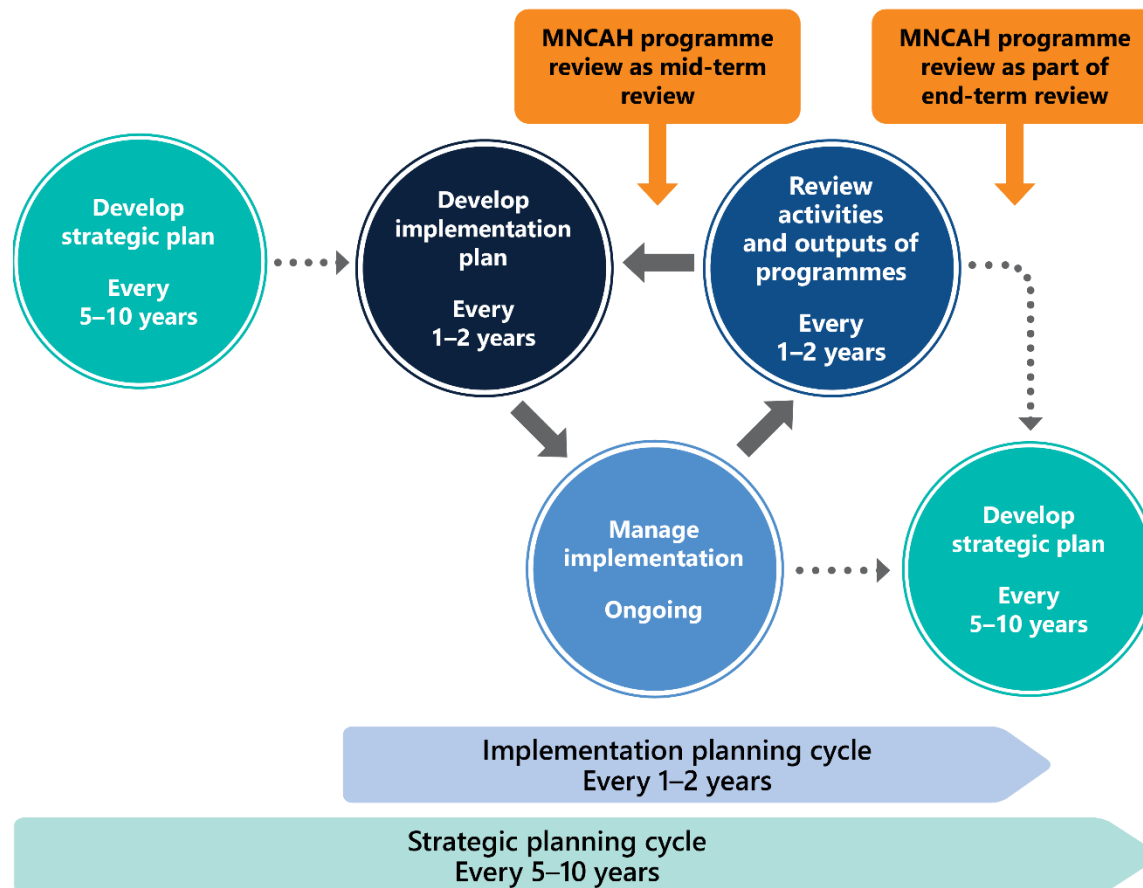
What is a programme review for MNCAH?

- A programme review for maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (MNCAH) is:
 - A process for assessing mid- or end-term **country progress in improving the health of women, newborns, children and adolescents**
 - Conducted on a periodic basis as part of the **regular programme planning and implementation cycle**
 - Most useful if **coordinated with other ongoing health-sector review and planning activities, such as:**
 - strategic planning, annual reviews of country accountability frameworks, annual/biannual district reviews and planning exercises, etc.

Note: Throughout these materials, we use the term MNCAH to reflect the programme areas covering pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, childbirth, newborn, childhood, adolescence and post-reproductive stages. As ministries of health are structured uniquely, the programmes/departments involved in a review of MNCAH may be arranged differently or include or cover additional areas not explicitly listed under this term (e.g. sexual and reproductive health, immunization, or nutrition).

Where does the MNCAH programme review fit into planning and management cycles?

A programme review is an **integral part of a programme planning and management cycle** occurring periodically as mid-term and end-term activities



Objectives of an MNCAH programme review

The purpose of the MNCAH programme review is to **assess progress towards the goals and objectives** of the MNCAH programme(s).

Objectives:

- To **assess how well national and subnational MNCAH programme(s) implemented their plans** and identify successes, lessons and good practices;
- To **identify problems and gaps, facilitating factors, emerging issues, opportunities, lessons, threats**, etc. to determine solutions;
- To **align the programmes' priorities and guidelines** with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health and other regional and global priorities;
- To **develop recommendations** including priority actions to be taken, resources needed, and responsible people and organizations needed to implement them in order to improve implementation;
- To **decide on the next steps for implementing the recommendations**, including utilisation in revision and development of strategic plans.

Scope of the MNCAH programme review

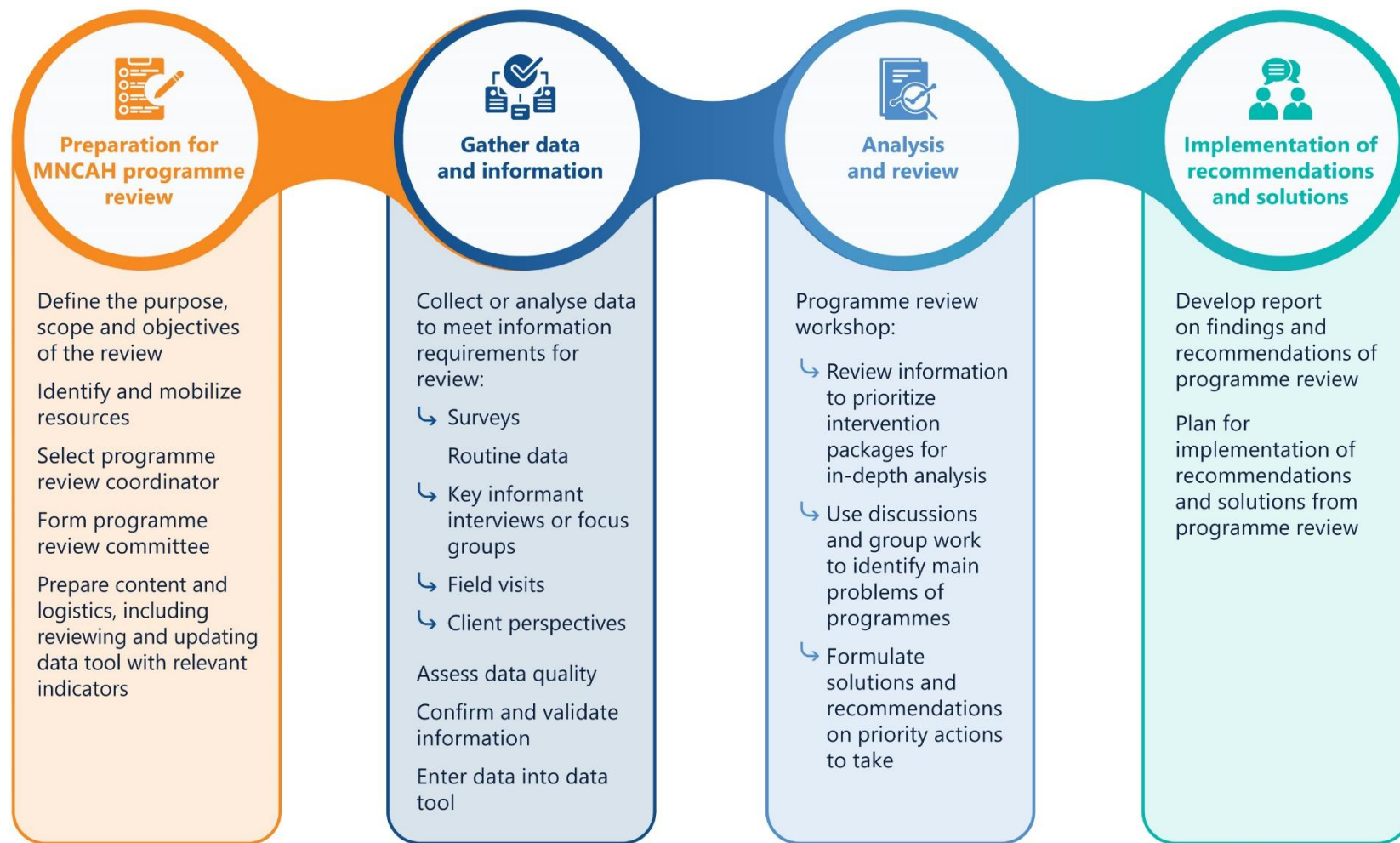
The programme review process is developed based on the following principles:

- Focus on proven, **effective, high impact interventions**
- **Address all the target populations of MNCAH:** women of reproductive age during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal periods; newborns; children (up to 9 years of age); and adolescents (10-19 years of age) as well as cross cutting and multi-sectoral areas such as nutrition, WASH, etc.
- Use a **continuum of care approach:**
 - **Life stages:** pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, childbirth, newborn, childhood, adolescence, post-reproductive
 - **Levels of the health system:** household and community, first-level health facilities, referral facilities
- Align with **national or subnational strategic plans for MNCAH** and also global/regional initiatives such the **Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health** and related initiatives (e.g. *EPMM, ENAP, CSA, AA-HA!, etc.)



* EPMM = Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality; ENAP = Every Newborn Action Plan; CSA = Child Survival Action; AA-HA! = Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents

Suggested activity flow for an MNCAH programme review



Information requirements for a programme review

- Data and information are essential for **informing programmes on how they are performing against subnational, national, regional and global MNCAH goals and objectives.**
 - Subnational, national and regional/global reference documents are necessary to review existing goals and targets
 - The most recent quantitative data and qualitative narratives are needed to assess intervention coverage and equity, and identify disparities and the most critical needs of women, newborns, children and adolescents
- Examples of reference documents and data sources for an MNCAH programme review, include:
 - **National and subnational documents:** health strategies; policies/policy statements on MNCAH; guidelines/operational guidance on MNCAH; most recent operational plans/workplans from all levels; previous MNCAH programme review reports; annual training summaries
 - Global and regional strategic documents and monitoring frameworks
 - **Data sources:** routine monitoring and administrative data (HMIS*, LMIS*, HRIS*, CHIS*, national health accounts); survey data (population or household surveys, health facility assessments); qualitative data (key informant interviews/focus groups; field visits; client perspectives)

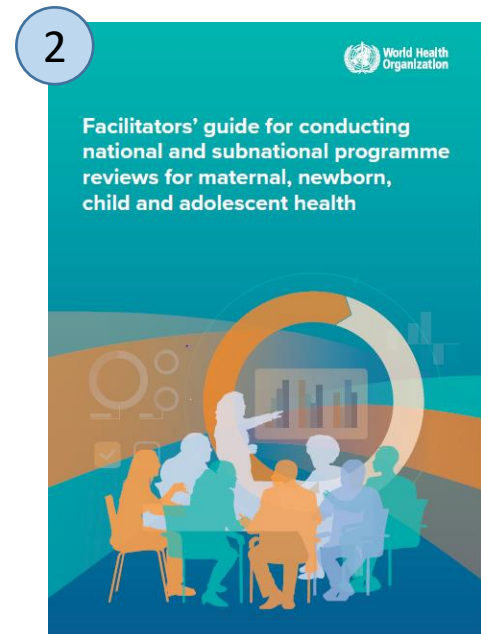
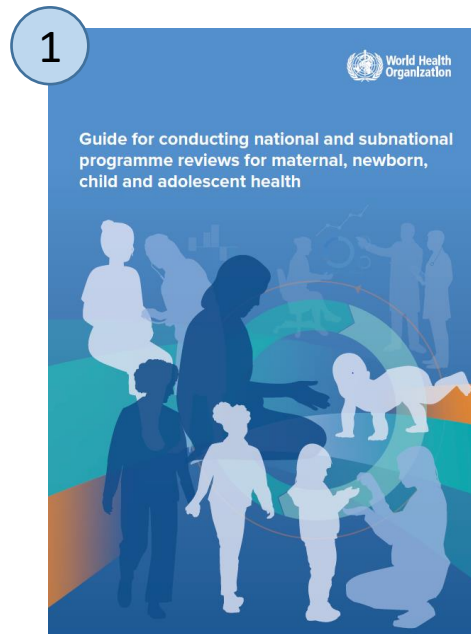
* HMIS = health management information system; LMIS = logistics management information system;
HRIS = human resources information system; CHIS = community health information system

WHO materials to support programme reviews for MNCAH (1/3)

1 Guide for conducting national and subnational programme reviews for maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health

2 Facilitators' guide for conducting national and subnational programme reviews for maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health

3 Maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health programme review data tool



3

World Health Organization

Maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (MNCAH) programme review data tool

GUIDANCE

About the MNCAH PLEASE REVIEW INDICATORS BELOW. ADD, MODIFY OR DELETE INDICATORS FOR RELEVANCE.

• Provides a file analysis such a period) and at different poin

• Accompanies reviews for MI

TABLE 1. IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES

Indicator	Baseline	Most recent value	Target	Status	Data source
1 Maternal					
1 Maternal mortality ratio					
2 Direct obstetric case fatality rate					
3 Anaemia prevalence in pregnant women					
2 Newborn					
1 Neonatal mortality rate					
2 Stillbirth rate					
3 Preterm birth rate					
4 Low birth weight (%)					

Steps

A Adapt interve the workshee corresponding measures. Adapt the indicators based on the purpose and audience of the MNCAH programme review (e.g. whether used for mid-term or end-term reviews; whether used in a national or subnational review). Add or subtract intervention (package) and specific indicators as applicable.

World Health Organization

Materials accessible through:

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088221>

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088900>

WHO materials to support programme reviews for MNCAH (2/3)

1 Guide for conducting national and subnational programme reviews for maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health

- Assists in planning and managing national or subnational MNCAH programme reviews
- Provides overview of purpose, methodology, scope and other considerations for MNCAH programme reviews

2 Facilitators' guide for conducting national and subnational programme reviews for maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health

- Outlines main steps for coordinating and implementing a programme review for MNCAH
 - Planning for the programme review
 - Gathering data and information
 - Preparing for the programme review workshop
 - Planning, implementation and facilitation of the programme review workshop*
 - Reporting and using findings of the programme review

*Templates for group work are available to support facilitation of programme review workshop through <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088900>

WHO materials to support programme reviews for MNCAH (3/3)

3 Maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health programme review data tool

- Microsoft Excel-based tool which is **flexible for country-specific adaptation** and linkages to national/subnational MNCAH strategic plans and monitoring frameworks, special MNCAH initiatives
- Proposed MNCAH indicators and space for data entry (baseline, targets, most recent values, etc.) at national, subnational or other levels
 - **Should be reviewed and tailored to country setting** (e.g., revise/remove/add indicators as relevant)
 - Simple built-in analyses to help identify areas for prioritization
- Should be completed prior to programme review workshop for review and use during the workshop

Suggested indicators cover:

- Impacts and outcomes
- Coverage (e.g., from household/population surveys)
- Service utilisation and delivery (e.g., from HMIS)
- Implementation readiness
 - Policy and guideline
 - Service availability and infrastructure
 - Funding
 - Human resources and training
 - Commodities
 - Multi-sector, community and stakeholder engagement

Status ► Progress, but more effort required				
ely	55.0%	63.0%	75.0%	Progressing
ation	70.0%	75.0%	90.0%	Progressing
ds (%)	85.0%	90.0%	95.0%	On Track
treated				No Data / NA

In addition to the Instructions worksheet in the data tool, a user guide has been developed with practical tips for populating and adapting the Excel file.

Overview of the MNCAH programme review workshop

Principles of the MNCAH programme review workshop:

- Reviews progress in order to identify most important problems, bottlenecks, gaps and formulate solutions to address them at all levels
- Uses available data on health status, intervention coverage and programme outputs at all levels
- Is a multi-stakeholder process which actively involves participants in making assessments and recommendations for all levels

Content and process

Participants will review and analyse:

- Progress on the health status of women, newborns and children and adolescents
- Programme coverage at all levels
- Programme implementation at all levels of the health system

Outcomes

Participants will:

- Identify the main problems the programmes are having
- Suggest solutions and formulate recommendations on priority actions to take at all levels of the health system

These findings, solutions and recommendations will be synthesized into a report.



Steps of the MNCAH programme review workshop

Step 1: To what extent has the MNCAH programme contributed to improving the health status of women, newborns, children and adolescents?

1a. Review goals, objectives, targets and barriers

1b. Review intervention coverage in terms of progress towards achieving target impact

Step 2: Which MNCAH interventions were implemented and where? How well were they implemented?

2a. Review service utilisation

2b. Review availability, access, quality, demand and readiness

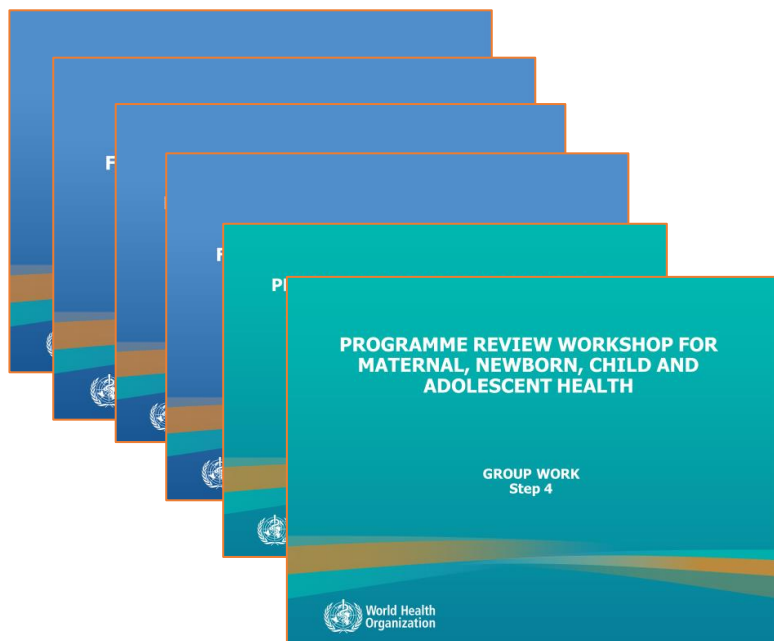
Step 3: What are the most important problems causing gaps in implementation of the MNCAH programme?

Step 4: What are solutions and recommendations for the most important problems?



Templates for group work for each step are available for use during a programme review workshop through <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088900>

Steps of the MNCAH programme review workshop – group work templates



Programme review workshop group work templates for Steps 1-4

During a programme review workshop, the populated data tool, along with other information gathered, should be used to review progress to identify the most important problems, bottlenecks, gaps and formulate solutions to address them at all levels.

To help facilitate this process, including prioritization of interventions (packages) for in-depth review (based on data and information gathered), suggested templates for groupwork/discussion are available*.

*Suggested templates for group work available through:
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088900>

Use of findings and recommendations from programme review

The findings and recommendations should lead to clear actions for follow-up and can be used in several ways.


Review type	Purpose of review	Timing of activity	Role of MNCAH programme review
Annual review	Adjust ongoing implementation activities of programme	Annually	Improve ongoing implementation of the programme through immediate adjustments to service delivery and addressing bottlenecks to scaling up services
Mid-term review	Review progress towards meeting objectives of programme and reprogramme if necessary	Mid-point of programme cycle	Assess whether programme is on track to achieve objectives through outputs and outcomes Redirect programming or reallocate resources where necessary
End-term review	Review performance of programme and develop new strategic plan	Before the end of the programme cycle	Contribute to assessing what the programme has achieved by reviewing outcomes and impact measures, along with other evaluation activities requires for developing next strategic plan

Links to MNCAH programme review materials available through:

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088221>

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088900>

For more information, please contact mncah@who.int



**WHO Department of Maternal, Newborn,
Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing**
[https://www.who.int/teams/maternal-newborn-
child-adolescent-health-and-ageing](https://www.who.int/teams/maternal-newborn-child-adolescent-health-and-ageing)