



Devolving countdown to countries: using global resources to support regional and national action

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Background

As the world embarks on the quest to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs), building on the momentum and lessons of the millennium development goals (MDGs), several aspects are clear. The SDGs are deliberately visionary and all-encompassing and in relation to health and nutrition, and include most of the social determinants of health. The health goal is also a much broader goal than the focus on maternal and child health and infectious diseases that was found in the MDGs. Notwithstanding the above, three key aspects of the health goal (SDG 3) related to maternal and child health stand out.

Firstly, achieving further gains in maternal and child health and survival cannot depend on the momentum of the past decade and will need concerted action and a focus on the bottlenecks and disparities highlighted previously

These case studies have been accompanied by considerable efforts in capacity enhancement and, in some instances, development of strong partnerships with the potential of continuing beyond the life span of the case studies themselves. Countdown 2015 undertook several training workshops in enhancing capacities in coverage estimation, assessment of inequities as well as measure-