Update from UNICEF TDR co-sponsor

Ann Robins, Chief PHC/HSS (implementation research)
PHC – HSS Unit, MNCAH Programme, PG UNICEF HQ, New York
1 in 3 SDG targets off track for 2030: UNICEF response in 190 countries with 6 Billion USD investment for Child Survival

Progress on child survival, health and well-being faces multiple challenges:

- 67 million children missing out entirely or partially on routine immunization between 2019 and 2021
- 149 million children are stunted, 45 million children wasted, 39 million children overweight
- 52% of children with HIV with access to lifesaving antiretroviral treatment
- More than 50 million children have a developmental disability such as an intellectual disability
- 62 UNICEF programme countries had simultaneous disease outbreaks, in addition to COVID-19
- 50% of preventable child deaths exist in fragile humanitarian settings. Nearly 37 million children worldwide are displaced due to conflict and violence
- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health conditions and injuries, account for 13% of deaths
- Over 1 million child deaths due to environmental risks; and increase in climate-related disasters, 1 billion children at risk

And 287,000 women die annually during and following pregnancy and childbirth; Over 10 million unintended adolescent pregnancies, with only 56% girls receiving four antenatal care visits
Global Priorities: The Road to SDG3

A world where no child dies from preventable disease and all children reach their full potential in health and well-being

Core Programmes
- Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health
- Immunization and Polio
- HIV/AIDS
- Health Emergencies

Primary Health Care
- Reach Zero Dose, Addressing Inequities
- Strengthen Health Systems
- Promote Integration

Multi-sectoral Empowered Communities

Emerging Programmes
- Programming across the life course: Shifting from 0-5 to 0-19 years
- Child & Adolescent Development, Health, and Well-being
- NCDs, Mental Health, & Injuries
- Environmental Health

Advocate for Every Child
- Expand resources for primary healthcare
- Engage with partners
- Promote use of data & evidence

Influence Government Policies
- Support policy & financing
- Scale up innovations
- Share knowledge

Strengthen Service Delivery
- Build capacity
- Support programmes
- Strengthen supply chains

Empower Communities
- Engage for change
- Generate trust & demand
- Strengthen accountability
UNICEF IR approach

UNICEF implementation research activities are “embedded” within programmes (Primary Health Care) to better understand factors that influence and improve implementation to drive change for children.

Meaningful engagement/leadership by practitioner/decision-maker (

Alignment of research activities with implementation, funding and policy cycles

Promote local capacity to carry out research (local implementers with local researchers)

UNICEF has presence in 190 countries – heavy sub national networks
In **67%** of evaluated UNICEF IR projects, IR reportedly led to changes in health policy, programmes, and/or practice.

In **50%** of evaluated UNICEF IR projects, IR reportedly led to changes in child health outcomes.

Capacity building in IR leads to transferable competencies: 85% of respondents used their acquired skills elsewhere.

Wide stakeholder involvement from the start is seen as a condition for IR success.

Source: Haydary, Shahabuddin et al. *Forthcoming*
On going and planned IR 2024-2025 – country projects

Improving immunization coverage and equity (focusing on integrated service delivery, gender, PHC approach etc.)
  - Afghanistan, Nepal, Côte d'Ivoire,
  - Madagascar, Rwanda, and Zambia

Management and prevention of Childhood NCDs
  - Nepal
  - Malawi
  - Zimbabwe
  - Bangladesh
UNICEF-TDR Collaboration on Implementation Research  
Progress to date

Development of IR Handbook for decision makers

- Join effort by TDR and UNICEF
- Outline has been developed.
- In the process to recruit consultants to develop the contents.
- Once finalized IR handbook will be tested in few countries to assess the feasibility and appropriateness and be revised accordingly.
- Dissemination and launch of the handbook via different platforms

TDR Regional Training Capacity

- UNICEF country networks need capacity building in IR
- Make use of TDR regional training capacities
A multi-partnered IR website (under development)

- Single source for all IR resources (exiting IR guidelines, institutes, available trainings, publications etc.)
- Include all IR project reports in a standardized format
- CoP: interact with IR stakeholders
Way forward

• Between 2015 and 2023 UNICEF demonstrated the proof of concept for IR in health immunization, birth registration, maternal newborn and child health, and early childhood development

• In 2024-2025 UNICEF will promote IR as government-led, necessary and cost-effective component to MNCAH programmes to improve implementation, accelerate uptake of innovations, strengthen health systems and Primary Health Care
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ASM Shahabuddin PhD
Health Specialist, PHC/HSS

Ann Robins
Senior Adviser, Chief of PHC/HSS

Elevanie Nyankesha
Health specialist, PHC/HSS unit

Robert Scherpier PhD
UNICEF Consultant
Thank You