



Options' Accountability Approach to Advance Health Outcomes

We make information and evidence on health indicators and outcomes **transparent** to a variety of stakeholders

We developed the African Health Stats website¹ using reliable and verified data sources, working closely with the Africa Union and other partners.



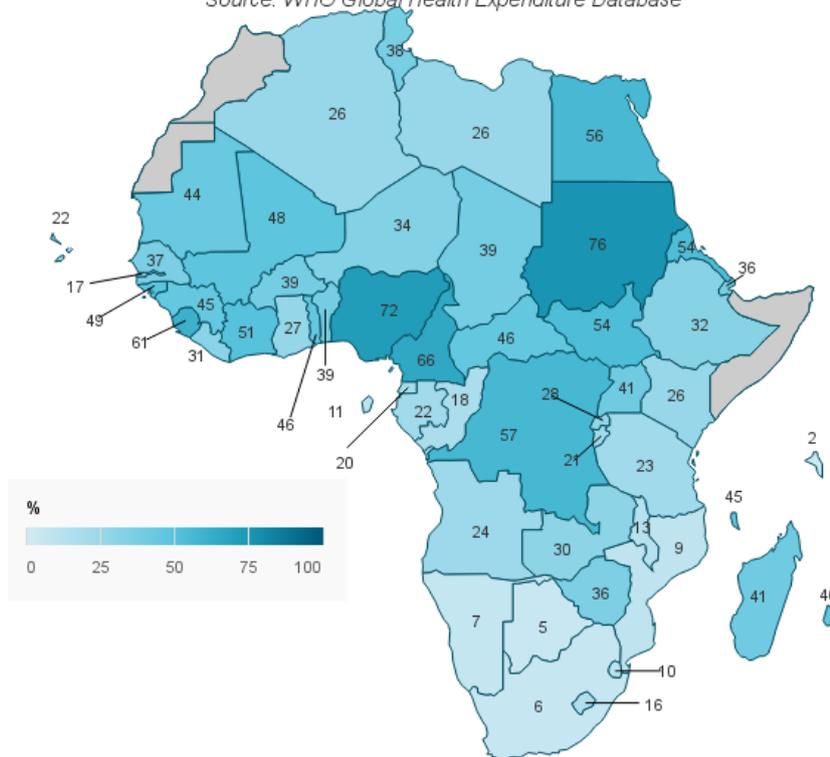
African Health Stats

African Health Stats is an innovative data site that allows you to chart, map, and compare health indicators across all 54 African Union member states. All data is taken from officially-recognised international sources.

HOUSEHOLDS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE PUSHED INTO POVERTY WHEN OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENDITURE IS OVER 20%

Out of Pocket Health Expenditure

Source: WHO Global Health Expenditure Database



African Health Stats shows progress on AU's health policy frameworks. Explore indicators across 4 categories.



RMNCH



HIV and AIDS



Malaria and Tuberculosis



Health Finance

We create an **enabling environment** that fosters a culture of learning, sharing of experiences and connecting stakeholders

We establish virtual platforms for knowledge sharing. One example is our Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) Network² which brings together providers, academics, politicians, decision-makers and activists towards a common goal of ending preventable maternal deaths.



The MDSR Network is a global coalition of more than 400 members from over 70 countries. It is led and hosted by Evidence for Action (E4A)³ on behalf of the World Health Organisation's MDSR Working Group...There is a substantial amount of literature focused on challenges with maternal death reviews, but little attention has been paid to the lack of action associated with many of the current MDSR systems in countries. The MDSR Action Network and its host, E4A, are aiming to change the focus to encourage stakeholders to look beyond the gathering of maternal death data, and focus on collaborative review and analysis of that data to determine specific facility and system gaps and decide on actionable next steps".

Engendering Accountability Report, 2014

² <http://mdsr-action.net/>

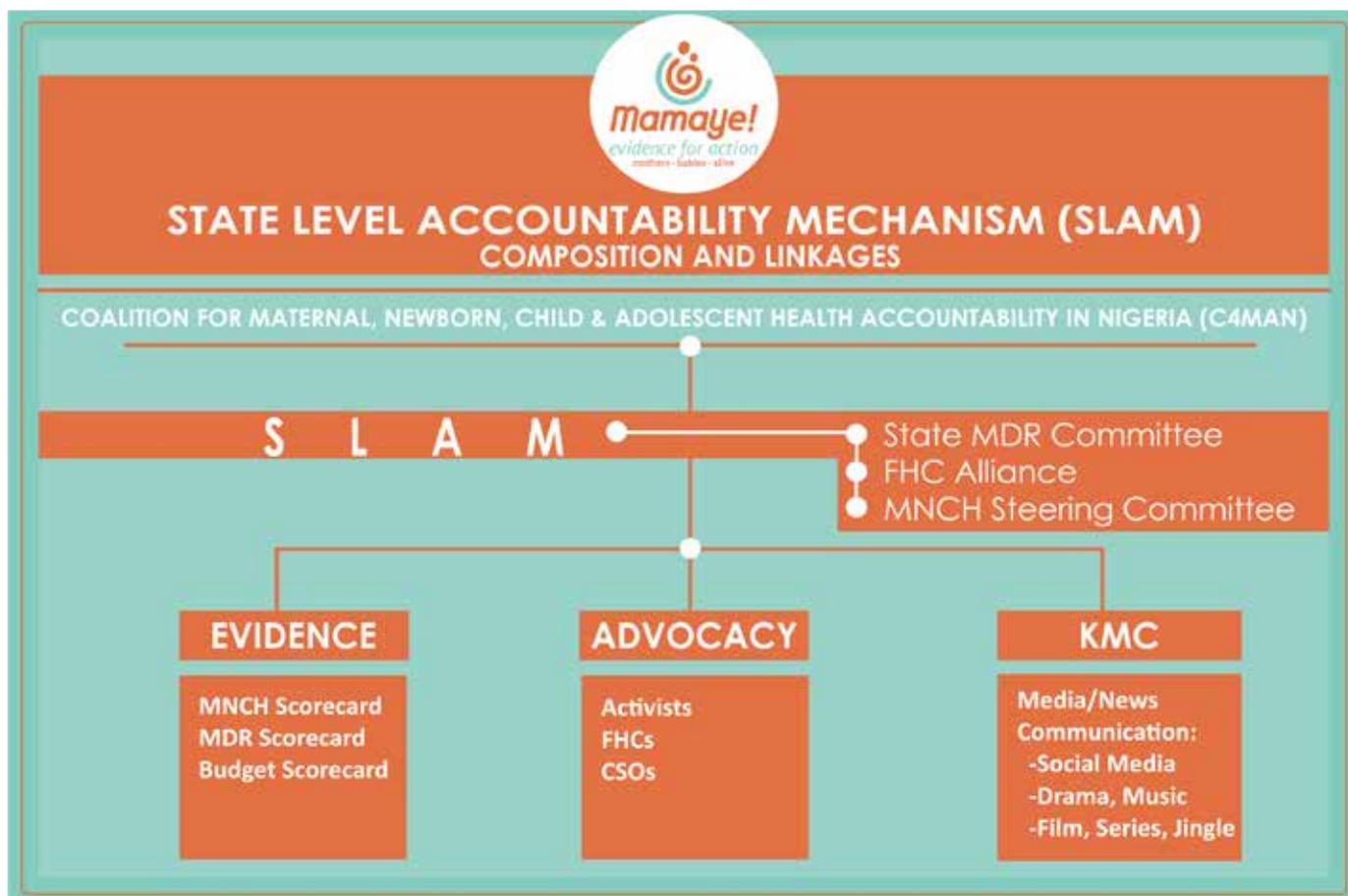
³ Evidence for Action is an Options-led programme www.options.co.uk/work/evidence-action-mamaye

We build **participatory and inclusive structures** which review and scrutinise data, act on evidence and track progress

We work at national, sub-national and local levels bringing a diverse range of stakeholders together to review data and collectively decide on actions to improve health outcomes.

We have strengthened sub-national maternal, newborn and child health accountability mechanisms in Nigeria (known as State Led Accountability Mechanisms – SLAMs⁴) which include government, media, civil society organisations, advocates and health care professional bodies. Each SLAM has three sub-committees:

1. **evidence** - to synthesise and make data understandable;
2. **advocacy** -to drive evidence based actions and
3. **knowledge management and communications** - to engage the media for wider coverage of and promote calls to action on health issues



We also increase ownership for health results at local levels through Facility Health Committees (FHC)⁵, where communities and health care providers jointly discuss and develop solutions to pressing health challenges.

“WE’VE COME TO REALISE THAT THIS FACILITY BELONGS NOT ONLY TO GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE,” SAID ABUBAKAR BALARABE.

“WE HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF HOW WE COULD HELP THE FACILITY, BUT IT NEVER OCCURRED TO US UNTIL WE HAD THIS TRAINING ON FHC, WHICH OPENED OUR EYES.”

Abubakar Balarabe, FHC Chairman for Dan Alhaji PHC, Lere LGA, Kaduna State

4 <http://www.mamaye.org/sites/default/files/evidence/MamaYe%20E4A%20Case%20Study%20Book.pdf>
5 http://options.co.uk/sites/default/files/20140703_technical_brief_-_fhc_process.pdf

We focus on **solutions based dialogue** rather than a confrontational and blame based approach

We have developed Community Scorecards⁶ which provide a tool for communities to feedback to providers on their health care. Interface meetings are held between communities and providers to facilitate a collaborative and solutions based dialogue based on the scorecard findings to improve health services.



Recognition of our accountability expertise

Our work on accountability in advancing health outcomes at various levels has been recognised in a number of academic publications and reports.

The following two articles showcase our technical leadership and expertise in making data transparent and comparable through our support of Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) scorecards, the development of the African Health Stats website and our Africa regional work on health budget advocacy through the African Health Budget Network (AHBN). These were part of the series of papers that formed the background thinking and technical foundation of the Global Strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescents' Health.

Accountability in the 2015 Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health⁷

“Regional bodies will be essential to connect and reinforce linkages between global and national mechanisms – facilitating monitoring through regional web platforms (such as AfricanHealthStats.org, CARMMA, African Health Budget Network)”

Prioritising women's, children's, and adolescents' health in the post-2015 world⁸

“Regional platforms can provide relevant support in this process. For instance, the African Union/CARMMA (Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa) has developed scorecards of indicators and a user friendly online database of indicators, helping member states track progress towards regional commitments such as the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action Towards Universal Access to HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa (see Africanhealthstats.org and <http://carmma.org/scorecards> for more information).”

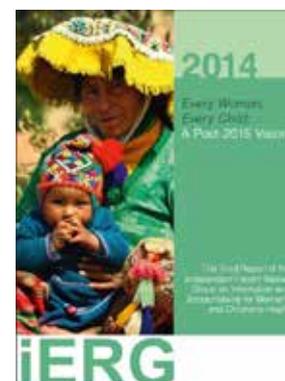
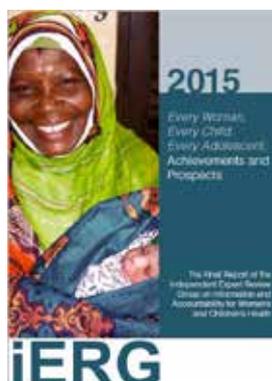
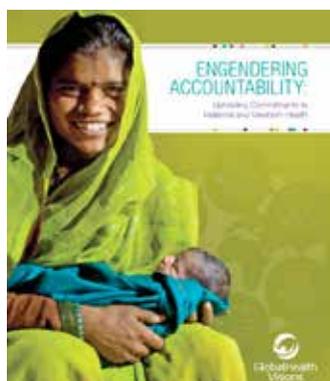
The report below highlights our regional accountability work on the Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) Action Network and our accountability work in Nigeria under the Evidence for Action (E4A) programme, as well as African Health Stats and Africa Health Budget Network.

Engendering Accountability: Upholding Commitments to Maternal and Newborn Health, Global Health Visions⁹

“Scorecards are one of the strongest and most useful tools for accountability, and quite acceptable by both CSOs and the government. Various scorecards have been developed to measure different commitments, such as E4A's state scorecard measuring MNCH progress, the MDR scorecard. Scorecards are often part of a complete feedback loop when coupled with multi-stakeholder meetings focused on validation, participatory review, and action.”

“At the state level in Nigeria, E4A has worked to establish and strengthen state level accountability mechanisms on MNCH (SLAMs) including the Jigawa State Maternal, Newborn, and Child Accountability Forum (JiMAF). JiMAF was built from existing state CSO coalitions and expanded to serve as a partnership with government, engaging state ministry of health representatives as well as other key stakeholders, including health professionals and the media. JiMAF has worked to strengthen the collaboration between stakeholders who are using evidence to promote accountability, transparency, and improved performance in MNCH.”

We also submitted evidence of our work in accountability at regional level and in Nigeria and Sierra Leone which informed the **Independent Expert Review Group report (iERG) 2015**¹⁰. Our accountability work in Nigeria was also featured as a case study in the **iERG report 2014**¹¹.



7 <http://www.bmj.com/content/351/bmj.h4248>

8 <http://www.bmj.com/content/351/bmj.h4327>

9 http://globalhealthvisions.com/Engendering_Accountability_Full_Report.pdf

10 http://www.who.int/woman_child_accountability/ierg/news/ierg_2015_report_launch/en/

11 http://www.who.int/woman_child_accountability/ierg/news/ierg_2014_report_launch/en/



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