

Republic of Zambia

Ministry of Health



Speech by the Official Zambian Delegation delivered to Access for All, the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition Conference in Ethiopia on 23rd June, 2011

Thank you Chairperson. On behalf of the Ministry of Health Zambia and indeed the Government of the Republic of Zambia we are proud and honoured to be the 4th African country to join the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition. As a country we are also grateful for your invitation to participate in this important conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, the theme “Access for all: supplying a new decade for reproductive health” resonates well with our national priority that is mainly anchored on the need to ensure equitable access to quality reproductive health commodities as close to the community as possible. Zambia is indeed fully committed to the shared aspirations of this Coalition.

Ladies and gentlemen allow me to briefly share a few milestones achieved by Zambia on activities related to MDG 4, and 5 in Zambia.

- Maternal Mortality Ratio has decreased from 729 per 100.000 to 591 per 100.000 (Zambia DHS, 2007)
- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is 7.5 for Rural and 4.3 for Urban
- National TFR is 6.2
- Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) is 41% for any method and 33% for modern method
- Contraceptive use is 48% in urban and 37% in rural areas
- The unmet need for contraceptives is 14%

Ladies and gentlemen, the targets and commitments towards 2015 for Zambia include the following:

- Reduction of Maternal Mortality Ratio from 591 per 100.000 to 185 per 100.000 by 2015
- Reduction of Neonatal Mortality Rate from 34 per 1000 live births to 20 per 1000
- Reduction of under 5 mortality rate from 119 per 1000 to 62 per 1000
- Reduction of unmet need for contraception from 14% to 9%
- Increase Contraceptive Prevalence Rate from 33 to 58%

What are current structures and strategies in place to help Zambia achieve these targets? The following are structures in place to support the set milestones:

1. 6th National Development Plan (2011-2015)
2. 6th National Health strategic Plan (2011-2015)
3. HIV/AIDS Commodity Security Strategic Plan (2011-2015)
4. Reproductive Health Commodity Security Strategic Plan
5. Adolescent Reproductive Health Strategic Plan
6. Community Health Worker Strategic Plan
7. Reproductive Health Commodities budget-line established

Finally Zambia is fully committed and inspired to the HANDtoHAND campaign and we look forward to Coalition support in achieving and realizing this goal.