



HEALTH DATA COLLABORATIVE

Note for the Record – Monthly HDC SRG Meeting		
Location: Zoom		
Date: 15 July 2021, 16:00-17:10 CET		
Meeting Chair: Helen Kiarie (Kenya)		
Co-Chairs	Jennifer Requejo (UNICEF)	
Participants:	Countries	Nasan Natseri (WHO – Uganda) Julius Ssempira (WHO – Uganda)
	Multilateral and Intergovernmental Organisations	Esther Hamblion (WHO) Karl Schenkel (WHO)
	Donors	Tessa Lennemann (GIZ)
	GHIs	Jeff Markuns (PHCPI)
	Civil Society	
	Research, Academia and Technical Networks	Chris Murrill (US CDC) Carrie Eggers (US CDC)
	Private Sector	
	Observers	
Working groups:	<i>Community Data</i> Ana Scholl (USAID) <i>Data and Data Governance</i> Vikas Dwivedi Vidya Mahadevan	
WHO secretariat:	Craig Burgess (WHO), Nina Benedicto (WHO), Mwenya Kasonde (UNICEF)	
Objectives:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To present data and digital priorities for Uganda 2. To present and approve Epidemic Intelligence working group ToRs 3. To seek feedback on WHO Health Data Governance Summit 4. To seek input into September Regional Global Partners Meeting 		
Agenda:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and introduction: Chair (5 mins) 2. Country Updates (10 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from Uganda 3. Working Group Updates (10 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemic Intelligence TORs 4. Comms and events (15 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO Health Data Governance Summit • September Regional Global Partners Meeting 5. Next steps: Chair (5 mins) 		



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SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Welcome and introduction: Chair (5 mins)

HDC Secretariat – Craig Burgess

- Provided an overview of this agenda for this meeting.
- Meeting objective is to hear from Uganda; however, the Ministry of Health representatives were unable to attend this meeting.
- Colleagues from the WHO office in Uganda will present and discuss their data and digital priorities.
- Epidemic Intelligence TORs will be explored.
- Updates to be provided on the governance summit from June and in September – would like feedback to design that.
- Would like feedback on the HDC Global Partners meeting.

Kenya – Helen Kiarie

- Thanked Craig for going over the agenda.
- Good to see the momentum of the HDC.
- There have been many leading HDC country priorities that have been widely shared.
- Good progress with the WHO Governance Summit organized by the HDC.
- On course for implementing the work plan.

Country Updates (10 mins)

Presentation from Uganda

WHO_Uganda – Nasan Natseri

- Had one technical working group within the sector in July for health information, called Health Information, Innovation and Research TWG.
- Together with MoH, this TWG was the best home for HDC in Uganda.
- Presented this TWG on behalf of the country focal point on HDC as a concept, what it means, priorities, proposals on where the HDC would be archived within the sector.
- One of the priorities is to constitute a task force. This, along with the proposals, is done and will be brought to the TWG for discussion on the first Friday of the month.
- Task force presently consists of WHO, two colleagues of UNICEF, two colleagues from CDC, and three other constituencies.
- Task force is meant to be small to meet regularly and guide the subcommittee.
- Developed a Google form to receive feedback from partners. We picked from the Kenya tool used for partner mapping.



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- By December 2020, we heard from a quarter of partners.
- Will revive this to do another analysis and share at the next TWG.
- Requested that the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ of partners to access the form and complete. It was sent yesterday by the Commissioner.
- Would like, in the next week or so, to do an analysis and share within the TWG.
- In terms of anchoring HDC, through discussion within TWG, it was determined that it would best serve as subcommittee of the TWG.
 - There are some partners who are not members of the TWG but could be invited to participate in the subcommittee, so their views can be captured and then communicated back to the TWG.
- Terms of Reference for the subcommittee is done and circulated amongst ourselves and in the ministry.
- Revised Terms of Reference for the subcommittee will be presented at the next TWG.
- Monthly subcommittee meetings will be held, one week before the TWG.
- Once meetings are held, priorities can be more concrete since we will have input from all the partners and from the partner mapping work.

HDC Secretariat – Mwenya Kasonde

- There is a lot going on in Uganda, specifically with the Ministry of Health.
- Have been working with colleagues at the country office towards getting an idea of the data and digital priorities for Uganda. There has been a lot of progress and still continuing.
- Important for the SRG to be aware that silence is not an absence of action in Uganda.
- Look forward to a detailed update at the next meeting.

Question

HDC Secretariat – Craig Burgess

- As Uganda goes through the process to prioritize the data in digital priority, how can partners more align their technical or financial investments around Uganda's priorities and coordination mechanism?
- Are there any challenges or anything Mwenya and I can do to help to make sure there is an aligned effort for Uganda's priorities?

In response

US CDC - Chris Murril

- As there is in country prioritization going on, and hopefully ways to communicate that prioritization with active partners in country working along side the Ministry of Health, there should be clear coordination and communication so that in country partners can be aware of those priorities to align their in-country work and address the priorities.
- Need to have a balance between partner priorities and country priorities.



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- It's a matter of communicating with each other and making sure partners are aware of the data priorities of the Ministry of Health and other entities.

Data and Digital Governance – Vikas Dwivedi

- As the process to identify priorities progresses, we should bring stakeholder, donors and implementors to the table for the alignment process.
- Timing is key. It is important that they are involved in the process along the way so that they can go back and incorporate that into their programming.

WHO_Uganda – Nasan Natseri

- We developed a health information and digital strategy.
- A synthesis of that was made of what the priorities are within the space, which will be shared with partners, along with the information to come from the partner mapping before analyzing priorities.

Working Group Updates (10 mins)

Epidemic Intelligence TORs

HDC Secretariat – Craig Burgess

- Background on the working group:
 - Was like an “emergencies” working group, co-chaired originally from 2017 by WHO.
 - Due to COVID, the working group never became functional.
 - Received a lot of requests in October and November to resurrect the group to focus more on epidemic intelligence.
- TORs made up of input from CDC, UKFCDO, UNICEF, GIZ, WHO colleagues from the Emergencies Department, etc.
- Extensive discussions were held; however, there are still some issues to work through before the TORs is ready to be presented.
- The group has been discussing how the group can contribute to HDC milestones and work plan with a country impact focus.

CDC – Carrie Eggers

- The group started as the Epidemic Intelligence Working Group.
- There was a proposal to change it to Public Health Intelligence so that it is a more “all hazards” approach, rather than only focusing on disease epidemics.
- It would include addressing environmental issues or humanitarian disasters.
- Open to suggestions.
- Asked for help to think about, refine, and identify whether there is a specific area or gap that could be filled.
- Do not want to duplicate what already exists. Would like to leverage what already exists.



WHO - Karl Schenkel

- Main points of the working group call yesterday:
 - Scope would eventually be too broad.
 - Discussions regarding whether to move towards surveillance instead of public health intelligence.
- Uncertainty of the working group's direction is related to recent developments and certain initiatives around public health and intelligence that are taking off. For example:
 - Berlin Hub
 - Leveraging existing WHO work around public health intelligence, such as EIOS, and merging that with artificial intelligence and bringing in data from other health threats like climate data.
 - Bringing in and linking to big data.
 - COVID-19 triggered a lot of initiatives related to this.
 - Pandemic radar led by the UK, involving genomic surveillance.
 - EREFAO, WHO and UNA are focusing more on the scoping approach for existing public health intelligence and risk assessment platform to facilitate better interoperability.
- In light of these new developments, we need to review the scope again and determine its role and how this HDC technical working group fits in with all these other initiatives.
- One role this group could play is the feedback in the country experience for public health intelligence.
- Also need to acknowledge existing initiatives.
- Will have another call soon to discuss and refine the scope.
- Happy to present the amended TORs at the next meeting.

WHO-Esther Hamblion

- Added that the group is working to align with the mandate of the broader HDC and also to determine how it can support the country focus.

Comms and events (15 mins)

WHO Health Data Governance Summit

September Regional Global Partners Meeting

HDC Secretariat – Craig Burgess

- Data Governance Summit is a WHO-hosted event. It is not an HDC event, but many HDC members attended the event.
- Three main objectives of the event:
 - Generate consensus that data should be a global public good.
 - Identify and help promote good practices in research, and data and digital governing data.



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- Aligning technical, financial and political assets different groups might have around common themes or good practices to decrease fragmentation that countries are facing.
- June 30 event was a 1-day event.
 - Hoping to have the report available next week.
 - Slides will be shared.
- Received over 500 different questions from the event. Questions were reviewed and analyzed to guide the second part of the event planned for late September. Dates to be confirmed.
- ADG Samira held a live web chat. Link to the web chat will be shared along with the responses and thoughts on data governance.
- Based on feedback received, the September event will be more participatory, with more country voices, and breakout rooms with good practices.
- There may be 2-4 specific technical areas in breakout rooms for groups to lead. Technical areas may include:
 - Data governance and steps from data collection
 - Data use
 - Data storage
 - Data sharing
 - Analysis
 - Visualization
- The Summit statement will be uploaded early next week for public comment, and then presented again at the late September event.
- Encourage everyone in the HDC to provide input by constituency and by entity.
- Planning a meeting next week with Samira and Soumya to guide priorities based on questions raised.
- Save-The-Date email will be sent with the registration link.
- Invited HDC members to provide suggested agenda topics.

Data and Digital Governance – Vikas Dwivedi

- Data principles will be sent out to the larger group for review and comments.
- Our working group has been talking about applying the principles at the local country level and how they can be more effective.
- Currently brainstorming topics to present at the September event and will share concrete ideas at the next SRG meeting.

Vidya Mahadevan

- We are also breaking down a lot of our work and looking at existing frameworks to organize and conduct a landscape review.
- Will reach out the Craig Burgess and Mwenya Kasonde to understand the process with ODI.
- Will also reach out to ODI to discuss their work to see how we can incorporate that into our work going forward and better understand commonalities with the existing tools.

HDC Secretariat – Craig Burgess



- Encouraged SRG members to reach out to their constituencies. Any feedback on behalf of the HDC can be considered in the agenda planning.
- Let the Secretariat know if you have any thoughts from constituencies on how to make the second day of the data governance summit an even greater success.

Next steps: Chair (5 mins)

HDC Secretariat – Craig Burgess

- Asked SRG for thoughts on developing the agenda for an October HDC biannual event with the broader HDC.
- Could be hosted by an institution in AFRO. Considering a regionally-driven event hosted by an institution there.
- Feedback received on the agenda so far:
 - More information and presentation of the country examples and work, particularly priorities and alignment.
 - Highlight progress of working groups.
 - Strengthening the connection beyond the SRG.
 - Discussion on other countries that have asked to join.
- Will contact WHO AFRO and UNICEF colleagues at regional level.
- Will collaborate with the AFRO consultant, who was recruited for the HDC work, to discuss what hosting the event would look like and how the Secretariat can support that.

UNICEF - Jennifer Requejo

- Not sure what the “research” bucket includes.
- Lots of discussions at UNICEF concern data integration - both in terms of integrating traditional sources (surveys and admin data) and data science with traditional sources.
- Important to have a discussion around data science and AI, even if it is about providing better guidance to countries on how to use, combine or integrate with more traditional sources, or how can countries best use these newer data sources and techniques to complement data from routine systems, etc. This is very topical at UNICEF.
- Like the regional emphasis for the October event.
- Could have the October event in Africa and the next one in South Asia. Topics presented in would be much more applicable to that region.
- HDC countries in those regional should be heavily involved in the agenda.

Question

UNICEF - Jennifer Requejo

- If the event is Africa-hosted. Is it all of Africa, a region of Africa, or an institution, a politically oriented regional institution?



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In response

HDC Secretariat – Craig Burgess

- Thank you for your points. They are well taken.
- We have a list of suggested institutes for discussion with WHO/UNICEF regional colleagues
- The thinking was about whether an institute can play a role in a region that has 3 main functions:
 - Advocacy leadership role for data issues.
 - Provide technical support to different countries and entities in the region.
 - Capacity building, such as hosting courses or build capacity of staffing entities or country ministry staff.
- Could be an Africa-wide institution. There are multiple institutions, so we need to discuss which institution could play that role.
- Agree with rotating from region to region.
- We are trying to answer country level colleagues to support regions and regional office, and to play a stronger role of coordination.
- The next HDC call could be facilitated if we identify an institution in South Asia, for example, and then shift to other regions.
- This could help strengthen coordination being global, regional and country level work.
- Between now and October, we need to identify one or two institutions in the Africa region to play the role of host and invite the whole HDC.

HDC Secretariat – Mwenya Kasonde

- AFRO is a term that is unique to WHO. It should read Africa-hosted as opposed to AFRO-hosted.
- We're looking at it from an academic and technical perspective. We're looking not so much at the political institutes.
- The thinking was to be less of a political institute and more of a technical institute.
- Looking at one or two research institutes.
- Ultimate goal is to support capacity building within the regional.
- The issue raised on having Africa-specific themes is important. This would be a good opportunity for peer-to-peer learning within, which a lot of countries have asked for, and to invite new countries to learn more about the HDC and benefit from the platform.

Community Data – Ana Scholl

- Will reach out to Craig Burgess and Mwenya Kasonde.
- Flagged additional topics related to Community Healthy Information Systems.
- There's a lot of work across working groups that would be great to highlight at one of these events.

Action Points

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe
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Share link to the slides from the June 30 Data Governance Summit	Secretariat	
Share link to the live web chat with responses and thoughts on data governance.		
Send out data principles for review.	Vikas	
Provide comments on the data principles.	All	July 20