Health Data Collaborative

NOTE FOR THE RECORD (NFR)

HDC Monthly Stakeholders Representatives Group Meeting

Agenda, Meeting Minutes and Action Points

MEETING INFO		
Location: MS Teams (virtual) **Date:** 17 August 2023, 16:00-17:30 CET ***Meeting Chair:*** *Craig Burgess (HDC Secretariat)*		
Co-Chairs		
Participants:	Countries	Mwango Mutale (MOH Zambia)
	Multilateral and Intergovernmental Organisations	Priscilla Idele (UNFPA) Sainan Zhang (UNFPA) Romesh Silva (UNFPA) George Mwinnyaa (UNICEF) Anh Chu (WHO) Hendrik Schmitz Guinote (WHO) Hipolite TARIMO Denise FERRIS
	Donors	
	GHIs	Steve Ollis (CHISU)
	Civil Society	
	Research, Academia and Technical Networks	Christopher Murrill (US CDC) Pam Dixon (World Privacy Forum) Laticha Walters
	Private Sector	
	Observers	Xavier Bosch-Capblanch (Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute) Edward Nicol (South African Medical Research Council) Christian von Drehle (CEPA) Kaveri Kumar (CEPA)
Working groups:	*RHIS* Jørn Braa (UiO) Ayub Manya (MOH Kenya) *Data and Digital Governance*	

	Vikas Dwivedi (Palladium)
	CRVS
	Debra Jackson (LSHTM)
	Doris Ma Fat (WHO)
WHO secretariat:	Craig Burgess, Mwenya Kasonde, Isabella Maina, Pandula Siribaddana, Tashi Chozom

MEETING AGENDA

Subject	Action	Time
1. **Welcome** *Meeting Chair(s)*	For information	5 minutes
2. **HDC Governance** *Update on HDC Evaluation and presentation of initial findings*	For information	25 minutes
3. **SDG3 GAP Updates** • *SDG3 GAP Progress Report* • *Update on Data and Digital Accelerator*	For discussion	15 minutes
4. **Working Group updates** *RHIS investment case – final findings (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute)*	For information	15 minutes
5. **Communications and events** *Planning for October/November SRG*	For discussion	15 minutes
6. **AOB**	For discussion	5 minutes

MEETING MINUTES

HDC Governance (25 mins)

Update on HDC Evaluation and presentation of initial findings

Kaveri Kumar (CEPA)

- Have engaged with SRG over the last few months on the evaluation
- Presenting draft findings and recommendations
- Full presentation in Annex of slide deck
- Evaluation objectives: Review of 7 years of HDC since inception to end of last year
- Mixed methods review with desk review, consultations, an e-survey and some country engagement

- Main findings;
    o HDC launched amidst heightened political commitment, especially towards alignment and investment in data
    o A re-orientation was carried out in 2019 due to many issues, some of which are persistent
    o Consultation supports the continuation of the HDC
    o Overall HDC objectives and relevant but too broad based
    o Some ambiguity over what exactly the HDC is doing
    o Multistakeholder partners are at its core but some limited engagement with partners
    o Heavy handed governance structure which does not support strategic engagement
    o Need to review engagement and impact in countries
- Encourage a review of detailed report and summary slides at the back of this deck
- Need to reboot and address these long standing challenges urgently
- List of 7 recommendations which are interlinked;
    1. Reduce the scope of the HDC to focus on where it can add value and has a comparative advantage
    2. Develop an updated Theory of Change, work plan and M&E framework that is aligned with the adjusted scope, closely linked to partner work plans and activities and focuses on shared responsibility and accountability
    3. Simplify the HDC governance structure and create a small Board to provide strategic direction to the HDC
    4. Build an investment case around the new HDC objectives and work plan and advocate for funding (whether financial or in-kind partner support).
    5. Improve the engagement with countries including clear "bottom-up" mechanisms and drop the specific focus on a few select HDC countries
    6. Improve the workings of the working groups and ensure that their outputs are relevant for country stakeholders
    7. Strengthen communications with countries and the wider HDC membership base
- The report includes a number of options for what the HDC could do moving forward

Feedback

Priscilla Idele (UNFPA)

- How does the evaluation view the SDG3 GAP Data and Digital and PHC Accelerators vis a vis the HDC?

Debra Jackson (LSHTM)

- What is meant by reducing the scope?

Pam Dixon (World Privacy Forum)

- Agree with updating the TOC based on resources available on hand
- Strongly agree with 1st recommendation to reduce the scope where the HDC has a comparative advantage
- Would need to look at available resources and forge partnerships amongst the working groups

Laticha Walters

- Agree with reducing the scope and focusing energy
- Knowledge brokering stands out high
- Caution on building up from partner workplans as key objective of HDC is on ensuring country level needs are met
- Definitely simplify governance structure and enhance the effectiveness of HDC

In response

Kaveri Kumar (CEPA)

- Everything the HDC does is aimed at country impact but how this is done needs to be reconsidered
- Some countries commented that engagement was ad hoc with poor follow through
- Looking at priorities from partners would ensure a clear fit while providing an added value
- Resource availability needs to be considered moving forward
- Welcome 360 degree feedback on these 7 recommendations
- On the merger of HDC and SDG3 GAP DD, the rational had a good basis but the implementation of this merger was not done in an efficient and transparent way

SDG3 GAP Updates (15 mins)

Update on engagement 2023-24

Hendrik Schmitz Guinote (WHO)

- The progress report was published in May reflecting on 4 years of the SDG3 GAP focusing on what worked, what didn't work and on recommendations
- Currently consulting on recommendations
- What has worked
    - SDG3 GAP provides an **improvement cycle on health** in the multilateral system
    - SDG3 GAP provides **structures for collaboration**
    - **Country-level** specific and thematic approaches show promise
- What has not worked
    - Translation of SDG3 GAP commitments into **action at the country level** has varied considerably
    - Initial **engagement of civil society** at the SDG3 GAP's inception has not been sustained
    - **Incentives for collaboration**: SDG3 GAP illustrates that "self-commitments" by agency principals at the global level may improve collaboration but can only achieve so much in the absence of external incentives that reinforce collaboration, esp. at country level

- Recommendations to sustain and bring to scale the elements of SDG3 GAP that are working
    1. Strengthen the SDG3 GAP **improvement cycle for health** in the multilateral system: amplify country voices and helps shift power dynamics in favour of countries
        - Roll out the second round of country questionnaires by the end of 2023
        - Make incentives and resources available to catalyse stronger collaboration
        - Publish annual progress reports & case studies to document improvements
    2. Maintain SDG3 GAP as an effective **structure for collaboration** on health in the multilateral system
        - Retain current structure of agency focal points & accelerator working groups

- SDG3 GAP Principals should meet annually to review and discuss progress
3. Better focus work under SDG3 GAP at the **country level** and foster greater cross-accelerator collaboration in countries
    - Further emphasize successful country approaches
    - Implement coordinated country action with clear targets

- Recommendations to address the elements of SDG3 GAP that are not working
    4. Enhance joint **action at the country level** through new approaches, such as delivery for impact
    5. Strengthen **engagement of civil society** and communities through consultations to explore their interest in contributing to work under SDG3 GAP
    6. Strengthen **incentives for collaboration** in the areas of
        - *Political leadership*: work with MS to develop and implement an approach to strengthen ownership and accountability to countries
        - *Governance direction*: each relevant agency governing body could review the annual progress reports and country-level coordination and alignment
        - *Funding for collaboration*: agencies should demonstrate what efforts are being mobilized to drive and deepen collaboration

- Upcoming SDG3 GAP Data and Digital Accelerator meeting on **12th September**, to be confirmed

Working Group Updates (15 mins)

Update on RHIS investment case

Craig Burgess (HDC Secretariat)

- Advocacy efforts towards HIS including
    - UNGA 18-19 September, with side event on "The Data Dividend"
    - Potential contribution to these global efforts

Xavier Bosch-Capblanch (Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute)

- Representing the team
- Summary of RFP and objectives of the assignment

- To identify effective and ineffective models of investing in country RHIS (country case studies)
- To identify and recommend possible frameworks, methods and costing tools to support integrated RHIS investments.
- To estimate the return on investment in RHIS, where possible.
- Production of technical materials and a peer review publication

- Methodology
  - Draw on existing evidence and expert opinion
  - Focus on RHIS (not addressed the whole spectrum of HIS)
  - Describe the status and costs of RHIS components
  - Valued to potential contribution of RHIS to health outcomes
  - No primary research carried our
  - No assessment of what works against standards
  - No estimation of monetary return of investment

- Economic analysis
  - Examined **Value of Lost Welfare (VLW) due to Amenable Mortality**
  - Looked at expenditure per capita on HIS and
  - There did not appear to be any relationship between higher per capita investments in RHIS and improved Healthcare Access and Quality (HAQ) scores
  - Some relationships between expenditure per capita in HIS and HAQ

- The works advocates for a paradigm shift in the way we invest in and use RHIS
- Some suggestions are proposed for different stakeholders to address this
- Selecting some of these findings to be submitted to a peer review journal for publication

Comments

Pam Dixon (World Privacy Forum)

- Expert in complex ecosystem governance, including identity ecosystems
- There is currently a push to digitising CRVS systems, while combining digitization of RHIS also. Although sometimes there is not enough stakeholder input from RHIS into CRVS.

Anh Chu (WHO)

- Agree with Pam
- Investment into RHIS vs digital health, need to be clear on HIS ecosystem
- There is a focus on digitization without looking enough into interconnectivity eg RHIS and CRVS
- Investment into RHIS is focused on the structure, then use of data
- Specific focus on who is using data and for what purpose is missing
- Need to highlight the role of RHIS in UHC, SDG targets and even WHO specific Triple Billion targets

Priscilla Idele (UNFPA)

- The UN Deputy Secretary General has identified 12 initiatives considered transformational for accelerating SDG progress, cutting across transitional initiatives such as energy, gender equality etc
- Implementation initiatives include a data high end initiative led by UNDESA, World Bank, UNFPA, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
- The ambition is to leverage examples of countries which have succeeded in advancing areas of data ecosystems
- Also looking to seek political commitment on investment in data and strengthening national data partnerships including private sector, civil society, young people and key populations
- Building on recommendations of the latest SDG progress report including increasing availability of data by 90% by 2027
- Boston Consulting Group has been contracted to support the implementation
- Participation is by invitation, you can participate virtually
- More information online: https://sdgs.un.org/SDGSummitActions/HII
- Unlocking the Data Dividend for the SDGs: https://www.data4sdgs.org/index.php/initiatives/unlocking-data-dividend-sdgs
- Session is planned on Sunday 17th September, it's a precursor to the UN SDG Summit starting on 18th.

Communications and events (15 mins)

Planning for October/November SRG

Mwenya Kasonde (HDC Secretariat)

- Want to continue annual face to face in September following success of the 2022 meeting
- Proposing to host this year's meeting in Kenya

- Logistically, due to financial constraints, it may be difficult to host in person but still hope the meeting will take place in Q4

Isabella Maina (HDC Secretariat)

- This event is also an opportunity for countries which have embraced the HDC approach to share lessons and for peer-to-peer learning

Craig Burgess (HDC Secretariat)

- A hybrid event is expected to cost in the region of USD$100,000, which we don't currently have in our budget
- Whether in person or hybrid, the agenda will be similar

Feedback

Laticha Walters

- Like the proposal of a regional event

Priscilla Idele (UNFPA)

- To what extent have we explored funding from WHO country offices?
- Would be good to settle on the venue and the date, then consider the budget
- Need enough notice to accommodate other meetings at the same time of the year

In response

Craig Burgess (HDC Secretariat)

- Have been in touch with regional colleagues, not yet been in touch with the WHO Representative
- Also want to contact partners
- Exploring budget options

ACTION POINTS

Action	Responsible/Lead	Timeframe
written feedback from the SRG on the CEPA draft report		31 August
CEPA to provide the final evaluation report to the HDC Secretariat		15 September

Dissemination workshop – key aspects:
• HDC Secretariat to share final evaluation report with SRG members beforehand
• CEPA will present the evaluation findings and recommendations, and either:
   ○ CEPA will open the floor to provide views by recommendation; or
   ○ HDC Secretariat to nominate key partners by recommendation/ group of recommendations to facilitate discussions (this would be our preferred approach, but we are happy to proceed as you see fit)
   ○ Following the meeting, CEPA will update only the recommendations section of the report
		21 September

for any critical points made at the workshop. Note that any feedback (supporting or contrary) would have been received by 31 August (as above) so we do not expect much additional feedback at this workshop that would require changes to the report.		
SDG3 GAP Data and Digital Accelerator call		12th September
Journal article being drafted on the investment case		
Will reach out to partners to consider funding options for in person SRG meeting		