

Collective country engagement approach: Recommended steps / protocols

<p><b>Principles of engagement</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>By invitation, not by selection</b> The process should be country initiated and country led with strong country stewardship and broad-based stakeholder participation (governments, donors, civil society organizations, public health institutions, academic and private sector).</li> <li>2. <b>Often opportunistic</b> The approach should be where there are opportunities for collective technical support and / or where joint investments have been identified.</li> <li>3. <b>Aligned at all levels</b> Global and regional support, if required, should be mobilized through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Requests from countries based on identified needs (responsive modality).</li> <li>– Reaching out to countries to actively demonstrate the value of an aligned partner response (proactive modality).</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Type of engagement</b></p>	<p>There are several types of possible engagement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Strategic request for collective action</b> to support extensive M&amp;E activities (in some cases this may be initiated by a preliminary scoping mission by a single agency or multiple partners, or arise out of national planning processes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Strengthen M&amp;E and/or HIS plan.</li> <li>– Priorities for investment.</li> <li>– Common investment framework.</li> <li>– Technical support for implementation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Focused request for collective action</b> to support a specific M&amp;E activity (e.g. multiple agency support for technical work in a specific area such as building analytical capacity or for investing in /providing technical support for HMIS).</li> <li>3. <b>Specific agency request</b> for technical support (which may provide an opportunity for considering with Ministries the value of more strategic partner engagement).</li> <li>4. <b>Knowledge sharing for ongoing in-country coordination</b> of partner work requiring no international support but useful to inform others or share knowledge, best practices or tools.</li> </ol> <p>These are country-initiated and led processes where government takes the lead in design and implementation, and sets up effective coordination mechanism for management resources.</p>
<p><b>What will the HDC fund?</b></p>	<p>The HDC is not a funding mechanism however, catalytic funding can be sought in support of country priorities.</p>



<p><b>Where will HDC engage?</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All countries are eligible.</li> <li>2. Based on country request from national government.</li> <li>3. Where there is potential for:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collective action and aligned investment.</li> <li>- Technical cooperation and coherence.</li> <li>- Building political interest in data.</li> <li>- Taking forward country-level activities of the working groups.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Work will include:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Comprehensive strategic approach as part of the joint learning agenda, documenting best practices.</li> <li>ii. Focused engagement for collective action through different modalities.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>The experience from the first wave of countries will provide a foundation for scaling up of the approach in more countries over subsequent years. Demand will be generated by demonstrating the value of the Health Data Collaborative approach.</p>
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<p><b>Best practice of HDC country engagement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countries often have an established mechanism for health partner/M&amp;E coordination. The HDC aims to work through and strengthen in-country coordination mechanisms for M&amp;E.</li> <li>• Promote and disseminate standards, tools, approaches developed through the HDC with country counterparts, building on existing efforts wherever possible.</li> <li>• Engage broad range of local partners, including civil society, private sector and research and technical institutions.</li> <li>• Link to process of using data (e.g. planning or accountability at any level).</li> <li>• Coordinate, harmonize and align development partners' investments and engagements in country data systems.</li> <li>• Work to support country health sector strategic plans and relevant M&amp;E strategies</li> <li>• Measure and document partner alignment and efficiency gains.</li> <li>• Disseminate progress and lessons learned.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HDC Information Flow for country engagement</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Countries made aware of the opportunities of the Health Data Collaborative approach.</li> <li>2. Countries express interest in receiving technical advice and support.</li> <li>3. All country requests shared with core group, which should include a clear explanation of the type of request, justification for support and expected response by HDC partners.</li> <li>4. Lead time of at least 6-8 weeks is given for all strategic requests, to allow partners to fully prepare and participate.</li> <li>5. Requests are shared by core team with relevant country and regional focal points to assess interest in engaging.</li> <li>6. Based on response, <i>agencies</i> inform core team of different agencies engagement interests.</li> <li>7. Partner focal point(s) identified and relevant stakeholders confirmed.</li> <li>8. All requests shared publicly through HDC website.</li> </ol>

## Principles of Country Engagement

### By invitation, not by selection:



The process should be country initiated and country led with strong country stewardship and broad-based stakeholder participation (governments, donors, civil society organizations, public health institutions, academic and private sector actors).



### Often opportunistic:

The approach should be where there are opportunities for collective technical support and / or where joint investments have been identified.



### Aligned at all levels:

Global and regional support, if required, should be mobilized through:

- Requests from countries based on identified needs (responsive modality).
- Reaching out to countries to actively demonstrate the value of an aligned partner response (proactive modality).