



MALAWI HEALTH DATA COLLABORATIVE

Malawi HDC Deep Dive: Note for the Record (10 January 2018)

The Country Deep Dives are led by Ministries of Health and aim to provide a space for communication and discussion with in-country and global partners towards a more efficient support of country M&E/HIS needs. They are to occur quarterly.

Participants:

Malawi: Isaac Dambula (Deputy Director, CMED); Jacob Kawonga (CMED/Health Policy Plus); Efrida Ghobede (CMED/Pedaids); Simeon Yosefe (CMED); Thoko Sambakunsi (CMED/Vital strategies); Tasira Mwaupighu (CMED); Tyler Smith (CMED consultant/ CooperSmith)

Global partners: Marty Gross (BMGF); Emily Cercone and Ruxana Jina (D4H); Carl Leitner (Digital Square); Gustavo Correa (GAVI); Verena Kohlbrenner (GiZ); Shannon (Rockefeller Foundation); Nathalie Zorzi and Michelle Monroe (The Global Fund); Mary Mahy (UNAIDS); Kyrchia Cowling, Jaime Nicolas Bayona Garcia and Laure Mercereau (WB); Jeff Tanner (WB/GFF); Eduardo Celades and Olive Cocoman (WHO)

The agenda included two main issues for discussion:

- Summary and follow-up from the Malawi Health Data Collaborative meeting in November 2017
- Round of partners' updates

Malawi Health Data Collaborative meeting: follow-up

- CMED outlined **main agreements that emerged from the Malawi HDC meeting** held on 28 November 2017 (link to the full report [here](#)):
 1. Finalization of the M&E/HIS Strategy (March 2018)
 - a. Costing of the strategy
 - b. Mapping of investments
 - c. Reframing of strategy to a results/outcomes approach
 - d. Governance and M&E capabilities issues addressed
 - e. Add strategy for data use at facility level
 2. Development of the e-health strategy (June 2018)
 3. Finalization of SOPs for data management/HIS policy implementation (June 2018)
 4. Finalization of the national list of health indicators (March 2018)
 5. Initiate the expansion/roll-out of integrated DHIS-2 to central hospitals (June 2018)
 6. Mechanism to rationalize data sources through the metadata navigator (June 2018)
 7. Agreement on a data quality review approach (June 2018)

- **Finalization of the M&E/HIS Strategy**
 - TGF and BMGF committed to fund a consultancy (CooperSmith) to support the finalization of the M&E/HIS strategy. The consultant already presented a work plan to the CMED, with the goal to finalize and cost the strategy by March 2018.
 - Key issues to be incorporated in the M&E/HIS strategy include the HR capacities/governance to deliver on the strategy and a clear results framework/roadmap and costing of the activities. CMED will reflect on the model of support/capacities needed-this should be captured by the strategy. The strategy should also include key milestones and priorities to facilitate progress monitoring.
 - The Aid Coordination Unit conducts a regular mapping of investments from partners in the health sector - including HIS. The categories are currently aligned with the HSSP II, but perhaps need to be updated to reflect the upcoming M&E/HIS strategy. A fluid dialogue with the Aid Coordination Unit is needed, including CMED, and other partners (WHO, D4H). Ideally the results of the investment/resource mapping are required to inform the costing and thereafter ensure the full implementation of the strategy. (This will help to finalize the costing, but this will depend on the timing- so far these are parallel processes).
 - Once the strategy is finalized, it will be endorsed by the M&E TWG and then by senior leadership in the MoH.
 - Global Partners offer to convene in country for the final presentation of the costed strategy.

Next steps/actions:

- Review and provide comments to the work plan to finalize the strategy (CMED).
- The mapping of investments will be conducted in parallel with the costing of the strategy. Findings will be incorporated into the strategy if available (CMED/consultant).
- Specific activities of the strategy like the DHIS2 academies will be discussed offline by interested partners (TGF/CMED).
- Assess how capacities of the CMED (i.e., HR, governance,...) could be strengthened to ensure adequate implementation of the M&E/HIS strategy. CMED will have internal discussions, and the consultant will try to capture them/include them in the strategy (CMED/consultant)
- Assess if a national workshop (or similar) with in-country and global partners could be useful in mid-March to support the finalization the M&E/HIS strategy (CMED/all partners)

Updates form partners

- **GAVI** highlighted their commitment to the HDC approach at country level and the upcoming M&E/HIS strategy. GAVI suggested that a Data Quality Improvement (DQI) plan could help to connect the dots from strategy to implementation.
- **The Global Fund** informed that WHO, TGF and University of Oslo are organizing a multi-country workshop on capacity building in HMIS /DHIS2 to be held at the end of February, in Athens. It will be a great opportunity for countries to catch up on the latest developments in HMIS/DHIS2. A delegation from Malawi, including programmes (HIV, TB, malaria, immunization), has been invited.
- **The Global Financing Facility (GFF)** communicated that Malawi has been selected to be in the next round of GFF countries. A multi-country workshop will be held in Ghana at the end of January. The work conducted so far in Malawi in the context of the HDC approach will be a great asset for the discussions around the Malawi investment case.