Malawi HDC Deep Dive: Note for the Record (29 November 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 (MoH), Simon Ndira (GIZ), Maganizo Monawe (BMGF), Ruxana Jina (D4H), Brandon Klyn (Cooper Smith)
Global partners: Jeff Markuns (PHCPI), Alfredo Fort (UNFPA), Binod Mahanty (GIZ), Marty Gross (BMGF), Katy Handley (USAID), Kimberly Boer (GFF), Maki Kitamura (WHO)

The agenda included the following items for discussion:
- Discussions and key decisions from the Malawi HDC meeting held 8 November 2018
- Reflections from partners
- Questions and feedback from global partners

Malawi HDC meeting 8 November
(See https://www.healthdatacollaborative.org/where-we-work/malawi/ for meeting agenda, list of participants and presentations)

Key action points / next steps:

1) Bringing hosting of all health data within boundaries of Malawi
   - MoH Taskforce made up of Central Monitoring & Evaluation Division (CMED), Quality Management Department (QMD) and ICT Department will work with all partners and put in place a secure hosting environment by October 2019. Can any partners at global level provide support to MoH on this?

2) Costing the M&E/HIS Strategy 2017-2020, now completed and approved by Minister of Health and Secretary for Health
   - This will enable the development of a common investment framework

3) Strengthening governance of e-health initiatives (under QMD leadership)
   - Create one entry point for all e-health initiatives
   - The WHO Digital Health Atlas will support the mapping of the e-health landscape
   - Need for a mechanism to ensure that global partners act in compliance with Digital Investment Principles
   - Need to ensure that e-health supports health service delivery and point of care data use by front line staff

4) Finalizing 13 SOPs in line with HIS Policy
-Interoperability as well as ensuring privacy and confidentiality while ensuring open access are major themes

**Partner perspectives:**

1) Emphasis on data governance issues made this a strong meeting. There was an excellent show of leadership and governance by MoH.
2) The meeting also allowed for discussion on an intersectoral approach to health data, with participation by the National Statistics Office and Chancellor College
3) The Malawi HDC provides an opportunity to demonstrate how to operationalize the Digital Investment Principles. QMD Director Andrew Likaka will be at the Wilton Park meeting on digital health this week.