

# Making the case to invest in country health information systems

## A Look Towards 2030

“COVID-19 has shown that even the most advanced and resilient systems have faced significant disruption across multiple sectors. We can only build back better with robust data and health information systems in every country and every community”

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,  
Director-General, World Health Organization

# A clear need to prioritize health data

3 million **excess deaths** attributable to COVID-19 in 2020<sup>1</sup>

40% of the world's deaths **remain unregistered**<sup>2</sup>

50% of countries have **limited or less capacity** for systematic monitoring quality of care<sup>2</sup>



Photo: Mohamed Azakir / World Bank



Photo: Henitsoa Rafalia / World Bank



Photo: Silke von Brockhausen / UNDP

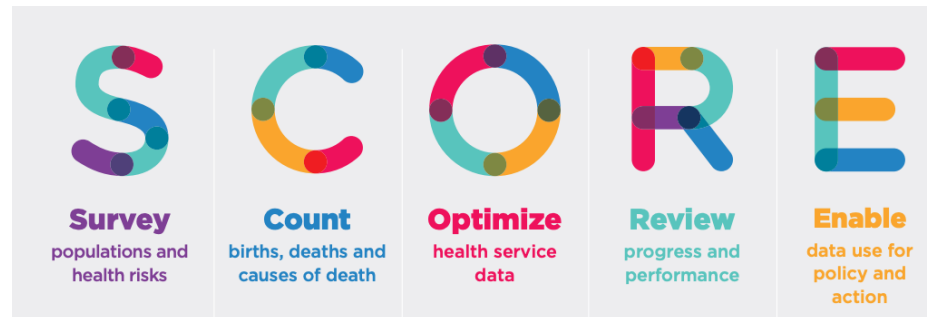
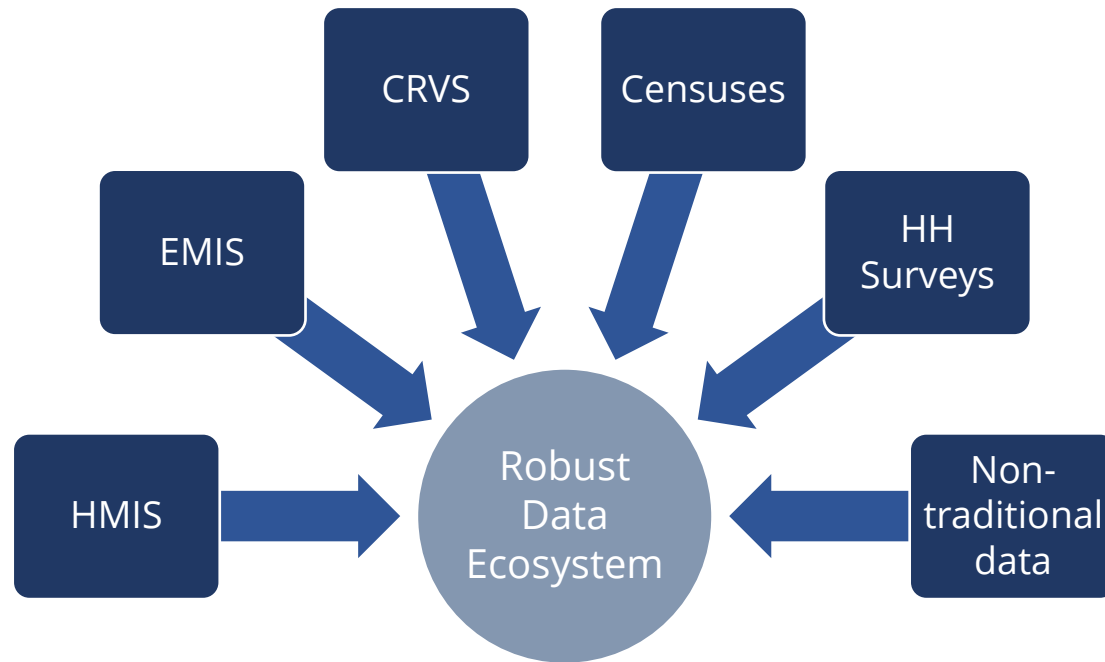


Photo: Mohamed Azakir / World Bank

<sup>1</sup> [WHO, Impact of COVID-19 on global health goals, 20 May 2021](#)

<sup>2</sup> [WHO SCORE Global Report 2020](#)

# Robust data ecosystem critical for data-informed decisions



**Greater than the sum of its parts:**

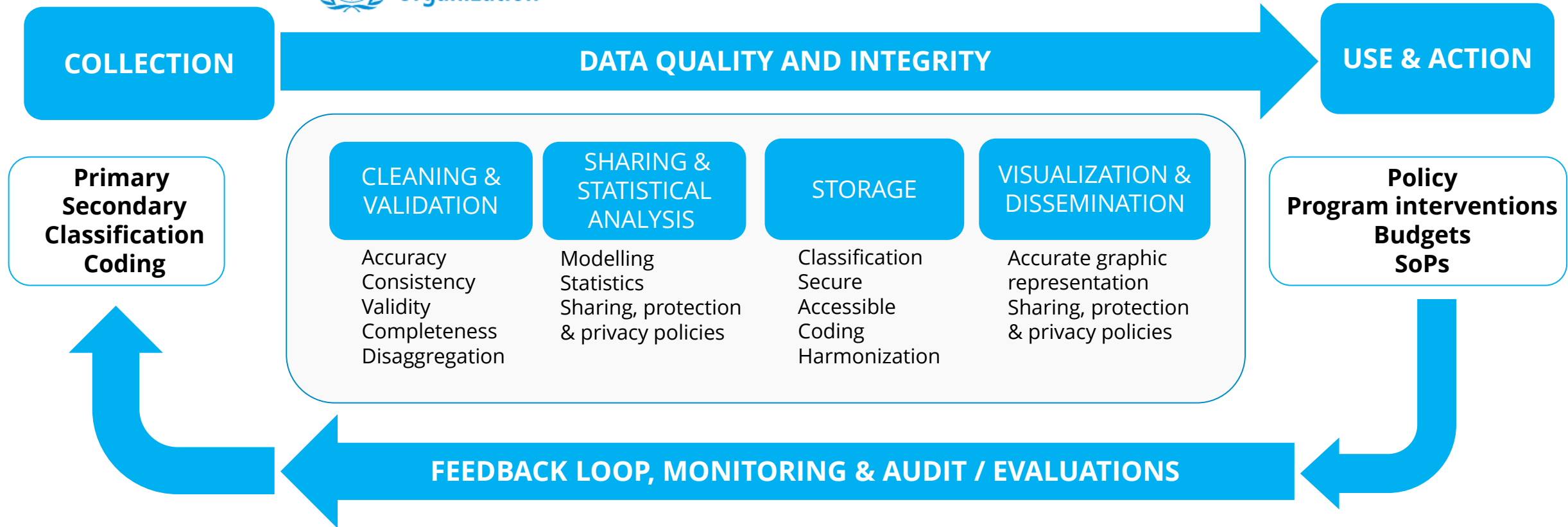
An interconnected data ecosystem requires coordinated investments in every sector to collect, analyze, and use data to improve lives.

# Addressing both ends of the data lifecycle: Increasing data production and use necessary for impact



World Health Organization

## WHO's data & health statistics journey



Collecting and using quality data with integrity: a) is part of health system strengthening, b) depends on strong governance, and c) occurs at all 3 levels of WHO. Individual steps may not be linear and can vary and evolve over time, but all are necessary.



# Better data for better health outcomes

**Open, timely, and disaggregated health data are essential for:**



**Responsive planning  
and decision-making**



**Addressing health  
inequities**



**Proactively identifying  
trends and diseases**



Photo: Stephan Bachenheimer/World Bank



## **Case study: Impact of open data in Brazil**

“Data was used to increase resource allocation and bring more doctors to remote and low-income areas. When maternal mortality was observed during the COVID-19 pandemic, some states used this data to prioritize pregnant women for vaccinations, which is now a national policy.”

[WHO, Health Data as a Global Public Good](#)

# Why now?



Investments in data system an emerging topic



New tools and funds for data investments



Approval of RHIS Working Group strategy



HDC objectives and need to implement SCORE

# A need to bring all actors together



**Ministry of  
Finance**



**Ministry of  
Health**



**National  
Statistical  
Offices and  
other data  
producers**



**Bilateral and  
Multilateral  
Donors and  
GHIs**



**Private  
Foundations**



**Private  
sector and  
civil society  
organizations**



# Elements of an investment case

## Potential Components



Clear problem statement



Emphasis on ROI and costing out gaps



Cost of not investing in HIS



Keep people at the center of investment decisions

## Potential Recommendations



Diversify donors and recipients and use existing resources efficiently



Use all types of funding mechanisms



Deploy different types of resource support



Build coalitions for better coordination

# Smarter HIS financing: Better targeted and efficient use of funds



**Increase** the number of donors prioritizing HIS in their investment strategy



**Watch** for underfunded areas and countries to 'leave no one behind'



**Advocate** for greater domestic resource mobilization to improve HIS



**Use** existing domestic and international resources more efficiently



**Reduce** fragmented, disease-specific HIS funding and recognize data as a public good

# Smarter HIS financing: Use all types of funding mechanisms



**Domestic Resource  
Mobilization**



**Technical  
Assistance**



**Loans and Grants**



**Multi-donor or Pooled  
Trust Funds or GHIS  
(GAVI, GFATM, GFF)**



**Bilateral Grants**



**Emergency Funds**

# Smarter HIS financing: Build a coalition for better coordination



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## Smarter financing for development data

In Focus: [Gender](#)

### What is the Clearinghouse?

The Clearinghouse enables anyone to track and analyse the state of financing for data in near-real time, connect to partners and tap into a rich pool of resources to advocate for more & better data. [Learn more](#)

### You'll find data on:

**36,000**

projects

**23** IDA countries and

partners

**7**

**700**

downloadable resources

The **Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data** is a platform to help countries, donors and development agencies identify funding opportunities, bring projects to scale, advocate for support to data and statistics and connect to new partners.

# Potential Way Forward



## **Do not reinvent the wheel**

Build on existing research and efforts



## **Leave no donor behind**

Develop targeted investment case to crowd in support



## **Cultivate custodians**

Encourage RHIS working group to move this initiative forward



## **Encourage knowledge sharing and develop impact stories**

Compile a State of HMIS Funding report to ensure everyone is on the same page

## State of HMIS Funding 2022 (Potential Outline)

- **Build on existing information** from the Clearinghouse and prior research initiatives
- **Elements of an investment case:** ROI, cost of inaction, and cost of different types of support
- **Target audience:** Ministries of finance, health, national statistical offices, international donors, and advocates
- **Areas to cover:**
  - What are the gaps in data and funding for HMIS?
  - What will it take to close these gaps in funding?
  - Why is this important?
  - What is a possible way forward?

## Discussion questions

- How should investments in HIS be framed?
- Who is the appropriate target audience for the investment case?
- What is the appropriate scope of the investment case?
- What are the next steps and who should be responsible for this initiative?