

Note for the Record – Monthly HDC SRG Meeting		
Location: Zoom		
Date: 21 January 2021, 16:00-17:00 CET		
Meeting Chair: Jennifer Requejo (UNICEF)		
HDC Co -Chairs	Somnath Chatterji (WHO)	
HDC Participants:	Countries	Maganizo Monawe, Jacob Kawonga, Malangizo Mbewe (MOH - Malawi) Solome Nampewo, Simbarashe Mazvidza (WHO - Malawi) Bejoy (UNICEF - Malawi)
	Multilateral and Intergovernmental Organisations	Peter Ghys (UNAIDS) Elaine Borghi (WHO) Amanda Stein (WHO) Philip AbdelMalik (WHO)
	Donors	Tessa Lennemann (GIZ) Nicola Wardrop (UKFCDO)
	GHIs	Heidi Reynolds (GAVI) Jeff Markuns (PHCPI)
	Civil Society	
	Research, Academia and Technical Networks	Carrie Eggers (CDC)
	Private Sector	Patricia Monthe (MEDx Care)
	Observers	Rosani Thambithurai Nikhil Mandalia Juliana
Working groups:	<i>Civil Registration and Vital Statistics</i> Azza Badr WHO <i>Community Data</i> Ana Djapovic Scholl (USAID) <i>RHIS</i> Theo Lippeveld (RHINO) Jean Pierre de Lamalle (RHINO) <i>Data and Digital Governance</i> Vikas Dwivedi, Vidya Mahadevan	
WHO secretariat:	Craig Burgess, Mwenya Kasonde	
Objectives:		
1. To better understand Malawi’s data and digital efforts and need for alignment; and 2. To overview 2020 achievements and give guidance on achieving 2021 milestones and event		
Agenda:		
1. Welcome and introduction: Chair (5 mins) 2. Malawi MoH and team, Q+A (20 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of data and digital issues in Malawi needing greater alignment 		

3. 2020 achievements and achieving 2021 milestones (30 mins):

- Secretariat (15 mins, Q+A 15 mins)
- Recap of current Governance (roles of SRG, WGs), milestones, work plan, report of leadership event
- Key events in 2021
- Feedback from partners on achieving 2021 milestones, with focus on country impact

4. Next steps: Chair (5 mins)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Malawi MoH and team, Q+A (20 mins)

Overview of data and digital issues in Malawi needing greater alignment

MOH_Malawi-Maganizo Monawe

- Briefing on high level progress for digital health
- At national level, the Digital Health Strategy is now available
- It has seven key objectives and four key high priority areas
- Priority areas are;
 1. Supporting digital health infrastructure, making digital devices available to healthcare workers and ensuring internet connectivity
 2. Improving interoperability
 3. Continuous Professional Development and capacity building
 4. Deployment of digital tools to secondary and tertiary hospitals and integrating electronic health record systems in Hospital Information System blueprints

- The blueprint is a component of the National Hospital Information System architecture
- This is an integrated electronic health record system or hospital Information System blueprint
- The blueprint provides the functional requirements for any platform that is developed
- So any digital health platform should comply with the functions outlined and fit into the national digital health interoperability architecture
- Both the roadmap and the blueprint are available
- A number of systems at national level have been integrated and are sharing data
- The Ministry has established a governance structure
- The governance involves executive and collaborative processes
- On the executive side; the Director of Planning and the Policy Development are responsible for digital health
- On the collaborative, the digital health technical working group, which has a number of subgroups and there is also an overarching steering committee, although the committee is not yet functional
- Based on the vision of the Ministry it is important to align partners so that all are implementing the same blueprint
- We would also like a mapping exercise of partner investments and to conduct a high level donor symposium to bring together heads of missions, donors and implementing partners
- Important also to align platforms to the national digital interoperability blueprint
- Specifically the birth and deaths registration platform

Questions

WHO-Azza Badr

- Is the birth and death system already in place, or is it just a plan of action?
- Where is the system based, at Ministry of Health or another Civil Registration Authority?
- Is the notification from the Ministry of Health electronic or paper based?

In response

MOH_Malawi-Maganizo Monawe

- The birth and death registration system is the part of the National Civil Registration and Vital Statistics platform, which is implemented by the National registration Bureau.
- This is under the Minister of Homeland and Internal Security
- They work both with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Local Government
- The notification from the facilities is both electronic and paper based

WHO-Azza Badr

- **I want to offer support in making birth and death registration system from the facilities electronic through DHIS2 or otherwise**
- **Please contact us, we are ready to help**

WHO_Malawi - Dr. Solome Nampewo

- In addition there are linkages between Primary Health Care and quality improvement and then the health development and Health Data Collaborative initiatives, plus the Digital Health WG

MOH_Malawi - Maganizo Monawe

- In terms of relationship with the HDC the key areas of collaboration were highlighted and there is need for cooperation between the implementing partners and the donors
- The HDC needs to make sure that donors and partners are working with the government, here there's a lot of room for improvement

MOH_Malawi - Jacob Kawonga

- Main issue is that of alignment and interoperability amongst the different tools being implemented by partners

PHCPI-Jeff Markuns

- Interested to more about what kind of support from HDC might be most useful
- **PHCPI is working with the Global Fund, GIZ and Malawi MOH**
- The work has stalled for some time due to consultants leaving but would like to know how we can use the HDC platform to help support and move things forward

In response

MOH_Malawi - Maganizo Monawe

- Thank you Jeff
- **In addition to what was outlined in the slides an investment mapping exercise would also be needed**
- This would allow to understand better where the gaps are
- We are able to interact with partners at the local level, but to get more alignment and additional support we need lobbying at global level

Data and Digital Governance WG-Vikas Dwivedi

- Has the Malawi team developed a costed investment plan to tell us how much is funded and how much more funding may be required?

In response

MOH_Malawi - Maganizo Monawe

- This is one of the key activities that was highlighted in the slides. It needs to be done alongside the mapping of partners and current investments, so that we know how much we have and where the gaps are
- We can use this to lobby for more funding

HDC Secretariat - KASONDE, Mwenya

- The question on investment mapping; this is part of the HDC 2020-2023 Work Plan as well as a partner mapping exercise
- A short concept note was circulated in the last SRG for consultant support. We've now drafted the terms of reference and for these consultants
- This includes mapping technical and financial investments

2020 achievements and achieving 2021 milestones (30 mins):

Secretariat (15 mins, Q+A 15 mins)

Recap of current Governance (roles of SRG, WGs), milestones, work plan, report of leadership event

Key events in 2021

Feedback from partners on achieving 2021 milestones, with focus on country impact

HDC Secretariat - KASONDE, Mwenya

- With regards to the countries we increased from four to 10_initial HDC countries were the Pathfinder countries; Malawi, Cameroon, Kenya and Tanzania
- In 2020 Botswana and Nepal were added
- Additional interest from Zambia and Sri Lanka
- As far as products, UNICEF Community Indicators are almost ready to be released following a multiparty validation process
- New Working Groups have been launched
- The Workplan 2020-2023 has been approved
- We have aligned with UHC2030 and SDG GAP
- We have streamlined the governance
- We held a successful leadership even with strong country leaders at ministerial level
- We've increased our partnerships from 30 to 54 partners and we have a new private sector constituency, as well as strengthening the research academia and technical work networks constituency and the civil society organizations constituency
- With communications, we have improved the website and webinars were held, specifically around COVID 19 modelling and Health Equity Assessment Tools

HDC Secretariat - Craig Burgess

- We acknowledge requests from some of you to either resurrect the epidemic intelligence working group or create a new working group on this topic. We welcome ideas moving forward
- We're suggesting a Southeast Asian and an Africa regional hosted event
- At some stage in October, the world date and forum in burn in October and then again a repeat of last year's leadership event to really keep up the political
- Current focus countries are being aligned with SDG GAP (Nepal, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda)

- More of the milestones are highlighted in the attached slides

UNICEF - Jennifer Requejo (chair)

- **Would suggest an event calendar for the year.** This could also be related to working group outputs.

UKFCDO - Nicola Wardrop

- Is there something planned around the launch of SCORE as this would be one suggestion for a webinar event

WHO-Azza Badr

- Doing some work in Kenya and Uganda and if Malawi is going to be on board, we are happy to extend support to ensure impact at country level, especially in the area of digitizing CRVS systems

WHO – Malawi- Dr. Solome Nampewo

- **Capacity building meeting next week**
- **Several CRVS stakeholders engaged**
- **Maybe a good place to start with training**

HDC Secretariat- KASONDE, Mwenya

- Azza, who are you working currently in country?

WHO – Azza Badr

- Liaising with the country offices of partners like UNICEF, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA
- Kenya has already received some funding
- There have been a lot of support from CDC

UNICEF - Jennifer Requejo (chair)

- It might be useful to summarize what the ask is from the CRVS group and share with the SRG so that people can respond with their interest and availability

CDC - Carrie Eggers

- Happy to make any connections as needed

MEDx Care - Patricia Monthe

- Digital health is where we have all our core capabilities or wherever we can be of help

GIZ - Tessa Lennemann

- Will secretariat help us revive the epidemic intelligence working group?
- **Would be useful to set up a call with previous co-chairs**

HDC Secretariat - Craig Burgess

- Yes, we can facilitate that and take up names in the chat
- We have emailed the co-chairs previously, they have been overwhelmed, so there hasn't been much response
- Important thing is to demonstrate added value above and beyond existing coordination mechanisms
- **As a focus for this call we can circulate a blank TOR for the Group**

Data and Digital Governance WG - Vidya Mahadevan

- Current members are mostly from digital health and interoperability group because we spun out of that
- As governance is a cross cutting issue
- Would like to encourage members to join, ensuring country representation and representation across constituencies

Action Points

Action	Person Responsible	Timeframe
Malawi MOH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest investment mapping exercise would also be needed • PHCPI follow up 	Secretariat	February Start - incorporated into Workplan 2020-2023
Event calendar for the year	Secretariat	February
Malawi CRVS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Digitization • Explore capacity building 	Secretariat Azza Badr	1-2 weeks
Epidemic Intelligence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a call with previous co-chairs • Circulate blank TORs 	Secretariat Secretariat	1-2 weeks