HEALTH DATA COLLABORATIVE

DATA FOR HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Launched in March 2016, the Health Data Collaborative (HDC) is a joint effort by countries, development partners, civil society and academia to strengthen national health information systems (HIS), improve the quality of health data and track progress towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Below are some highlights and a summary of progress made in the six months since March.

Core team established, Operational Workplan finalized, Technical Working Groups begin implementation

- With dedicated focal points from 13 global health partners – CDC, CHESTRAD, DFID, Gavi, GIZ, HHS, NORAD, The Global Fund, Unicef, UNAIDS, USAID, WBG, WHO -- the unique structure of the core team is designed to foster joint ownership, collective action and shared responsibility
- Operational Workplan puts into action principles of alignment established through the Measurement and Accountability for Health Summit and 5-Point Call to Action from June 2015
- 9 technical working groups have been established, engaging nearly 300 technical experts from 60 global health organizations

Country engagement activities -- aligned with country priorities -- take off in Kenya, Malawi, Bangladesh

Kenya's Ministry of Health launched the Kenya Health Data Collaborative in May, drafting a One Monitoring & Evaluation Framework and Roadmap with priorities to be supported by all stakeholders. A data analytics capacity building workshop to support a mid-term review of the Health Sector Strategic Plan was also held in July. Kenya's stewardship of the Collaborative approach at country level to strengthen its health information system makes it an exemplary pathfinder country for the HDC.

Following a multi-partner mission in November, Malawi's Ministry of Health has spearheaded the formation of a M&E Taskforce to oversee HIS strengthening activities, and in April identified priority actions through 2021. A centralized DHIS 2 system is in development to replace fragmented investments in multiple systems for disease-specific programmes, and a common investment framework aligned with MoH's second Health Sector Strategic Plan is being developed and will be validated during a multi-partner mission scheduled for later this year. While leadership has demonstrated political commitment, speed of implementation remains a challenge.

Inter-Country Conference on Measurement and Accountability for Health was held in Bangladesh in April, backed by USAID and AeHIN, as a regional meeting of the Collaborative for Southeast Asia, to promote peer-to-peer learning in the region.

Opportunities for collective action in other countries are being explored in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Myanmar, Tanzania, and Nigeria, to capitalize on existing engagement by partners.

Harmonization of tools and standards

Through the technical working groups, HDC partners are working to harmonize duplicate and fragmented data tools. Progress has been made on the following:

- Moving from multiple, disease-specific data quality tools to a Data Quality Review tool jointly developed by USAID, Global Fund, JSI, WHO, Gavi and MEASURE Evalution
- Moving from disease-specific vertical reporting systems for routine health data towards a common platform (e.g. DHIS 2)
- Harmonizing facility survey tools by reaching a consensus on common core indicators across existing tools

Progress comes with challenges

While much progress has been made, partners have demonstrated varying levels of engagement, and more work lies ahead:

- To ensure better alignment with country priorities and harmonization of tools and standards
- To ensure effective communication among technical working groups on cross-cutting activities
- To establish strategic coordination with other initiatives such as Universal Health Coverage (UHC2030), global health security agenda, Global Financing Facility, and Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data

The Health Data Collaborative partners