HEALTH DATA COLLABORATIVE
DATA FOR HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Monthly update – July 6, 2016

Welcome to the sixth issue of the Health Data Collaborative Monthly Update. We are pleased to bring you the latest news from the Collaborative's partners, who are adopting a harmonized approach, aligned with country priorities, to strengthening national health information systems, improving the quality of health data and tracking progress toward the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Please join the conversation on Twitter.

Country Activities

Please visit the SharePoint to access documents on Health Data Collaborative work by country and by working group. To obtain login access to this internal documents portal, please contact Florence Rusciano at ruscianof@who.int.

DRC: Joint Investments Support National Roll-Out of DHIS 2

Global Fund, World Bank, GAVI and DFID are core contributors to a three-year investment plan to strengthen the country's health management information system. One of the key areas of investment is the national roll-out of the health information software program DHIS 2, which has now been introduced in more than 400 out of 516 health zones. The next step is to integrate disease-specific programs that will use DHIS 2 for reporting data, with initial discussions starting with the malaria and TB programmes. For more details, please contact Joanna Barczyk at Joanna.Barczyk@theglobalfund.org.

Sierra Leone Developing New Health Information System Strategic Plan

The plan aims to identify and agree on the goals and interventions to strengthen the country's HIS capacities. In-country and global partners will be involved in the exercise in the upcoming months. The HIS strategic plan will build on previous exercises such as the national workshop to identify monitoring and evaluation (M&E) priority actions, conducted in May, with participation from a joint WHO-World Bank mission. For more details, please contact Eduardo Celades at celadese@who.int.

India: Routine health information systems curriculum piloted

The first test run of the RHIS course took place in New Delhi June 6 - 17, organized by the MEASURE Evaluation Project and the Public Health Institute of India (PHFI), with funding by USAID and WHO-SEARO.

The course consists of ten modules for a total of 60 hours of sessions, using a variety of teaching methods such as lectures, case studies, and exercises. Following inputs from the Global Advisory Committee, the RHIS curriculum will be finalized by the end of September. For more details, please contact Theo Lippeveld at theo_lippeveld@jsi.com.

Kenya to Host Data Analytics Workshop

Following the launch of the Kenya Health Data Collaborative in May (see interview with the Ministry of Health's Dr Isabella Maina), a workshop to be held July 26–29 will support the preparation of an in-depth analytical report as part of the mid-term review of progress under the national health sector strategic and investment plan for the 2014-2018 period. The workshop aims to strengthen the capacity of the analytical review team, leading up to the mid-term review to be held in November. About 40-50 participants are expected, including:

- Programme heads and HIS/M&E officers at the Ministry of Health
- Kenya Health Data Collaborative working group members on data analytics
- A team of data analysts/consultants under the leadership of a national institute
- National and international collaborating partners (programme heads, analysts and M&E officers)
- Directors of health and M&E officers from selected Counties
- Other mministries/departments (e.g., Kenya National Bureau of Statistics)

For more details, please contact Benson Droti at drotib@who.int.

Global Activities

- **Digital health and interoperability working group meeting** June 28-29 in Washington, DC: the group aims to optimize quality and use of information from digital health systems within low- and middle-income countries and increase efficiencies of investments in such systems. Details on outcomes from the meeting to be reported in the next issue.

- **DHIS 2 partner meeting** organized by Norad June 23-24 in Oslo, Norway: Partners represented included Norad, University of Oslo, WHO, GAVI, The Global Fund, CDC, UNICEF, USAID, BMGF and Measure Evaluation. A key recommendation from the project evaluation was for partners to establish a common set of functional requirements for using DHIS 2 and a joint investment plan for DHIS 2 development, roll-out in countries and maintenance. For more details, please contact Olav Poppe at poppeo@who.int.

- **Universal Health Coverage 2030 consultation** June 22-23 in Geneva: IHP+ (International Health Partnership) is transforming into IHP for UHC2030. At the consultation meeting, the Health Data Collaborative's role within the initiative was clearly recognized as a monitoring mechanism to "leave no-one behind," given the need for disaggregated data to capture all population sub-groups. Click here for presentations made at the meeting.

- **Civil Society working group meeting / African Regional Health and Accountability Dialogue** July 27-29 in Lagos, Nigeria: this group aims to 1) improve data access and data use to empower policy dialogue and 2) support civil society-led actions to hold both countries and Collaborative partners accountable. For more details, please contact Lola Dare at lola.dare@chestrad-ngo.org.

- **Workshop on development and implementation of national identifiers in countries** July 6-8 in Geneva, organized by UNAIDS and WHO: countries that have recently developed unique identifier systems for monitoring patients will share their experiences and help develop guidelines for other countries. The meeting is not HIV-specific and will incorporate examples from multiple global regions. Unique identifiers will allow countries to strengthen their programme and disease surveillance data as well as vital registration systems. For more details, please contact Kim Marsh at marshk@unaids.org.

Communications Tools

- **The Health Data Collaborative website**: please contact communications officer Maki Kitamura at kitamuram@who.int for any content suggestions/submissions.

Calendar of Events

July 6-8	Workshop on Facilitating Development and Implementation of National Identifiers in Countries (Geneva, Switzerland)
July 11-14	Global CRVS group meeting to review CRVS e-learning modules (Ottawa, Canada)
July 13	HDC Data Analytics and Use working group meeting (dial-in)
July 18-20	High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York)
July 26	HDC Health Workforce working group meeting (dial-in)
July 26-29	Kenya HDC data analytics workshop (Nairobi, Kenya)
July 27-29	HDC Civil Society working group meeting / African Regional Health and Accountability Dialogue (Lagos, Nigeria)

Best wishes,
The Health Data Collaborative communications team