Health Data Collaborative

Better Data for Better Health:
Investing in Country Health Information Systems to Accelerate Progress Towards
Health-related SDGs

Dates: 18 and 19 May 2023, Geneva, Switzerland (in-person and virtual)	Venue: Château de Penthes, Chem. de l'Impératrice 18, 1292 Pregny-Chambésy, Geneva, Switzerland	Virtual: Zoom Webinar (link to register **here**)

Introduction and background

The world is off track to meet the 2030 health-related SDGs. There are significant data gaps and capacities for tracking progress towards SDG targets and supporting communities left behind. Fragmented approaches to collecting, storing, sharing, analysing and using data for health outcomes is challenging progress. Building on the 2021 Health Data Governance Summit and summit statement, Health Data Collaborative (HDC) partners will co-host an event on 18 and 19 May 2023 to promote health data as a global good by (a) identifying and promoting good country data governance practices; and (b) promoting investment in Health Information Systems (HIS) guided by the SCORE for Health Data Technical Package (SCORE). It will consider SCORE as an overall approach to investment, especially in Least Developed Countries over the next two years. The necessary advocacy steps will be sought to promote good data governance practices and investment in HIS. Urgent attention is needed to promote data as a global public good and sufficient investment in country HIS.

Outlined below are the milestones leading up to this meeting:
1. **Health Data Governance Summit (2021):** WHO hosted a Health Data Governance Summit with a diverse range of stakeholders. This provided an overview of the health data landscape, made the case for data being a global public good and identified aspects of data maturity and good data governance practices. The resulting summit statement emphasized data as a global public good, advocating for i) a global data governance framework with good data principles, and ii) collective leadership and resources from multi stakeholder & multi sector data communities for stronger sustainable systems.
2. **Global Development report and WB work (2021-22):** The 2021 Global Development Report made the case for investing in data. World Bank also hosted capacity building events for health data governance, bringing together stakeholders to identify good health data governance practices and concepts from countries.
3. **Investing in data (2022):** Multiple partners presented at the 2022 UNGA, led by data with purpose and presented an investment case for data. This suggested that for every 1$ invested in data the return is $32, also calling for 0.8% of annual spending allocation for data systems.
4. **Health Data Collaborative investment case for Routine Health Information Systems (RHIS) (2022-23):** partners consistently highlight inefficient investments for HIS. This is a major challenge to provide timely, quality, accurate and complete data for better evidence-based decisions and to monitor progress toward national and global health-related SDGs and UHC. Many health programs and siloed disease specific initiatives have investment cases, providing Ministries of Finance, bilateral donors and global health initiatives guidance on allocating scarce resources effectively and efficiently to maximize health outcomes. There has been no such investment case or systematic review of investing in HIS. The HDC commissioned work through Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute to support this.
5. **Health Data principles and data governance framework (2021-22):** The UNSG data strategy and WHO both have data principles. A separate set of health data governance principles (endorsed by 140+ organisations, including the HDC) and advocacy for a global health data governance framework is led by Transform Health, with the engagement of wider stakeholders, including the HDC Data and Digital Governance working Group.

Meeting objectives and outcomes

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- Review data governance principles, policies and good practices from countries and partner organisations; and
- Discuss and propose an investment strategy for strengthening country HIS.

The expected outcomes of this meeting will include documentation of data governance practices and gaps for health data and opportunities to leverage good practices, and better alignment with partners on proposing strategic investment case for strengthening country HIS.

Meeting format

This is a 2-day hybrid (in-person and virtual) event, joined by approximately 40 in person representatives and stakeholders represented in HDC. There will be an opportunity for partners to discuss on investing in HIS and better aligning with country priorities organized by partners' roundtable. Mixed facilitated panel sessions and materials available beforehand identifying good country health data governance practices and case for better investing in HIS for better quality and more timely, accurate, complete data for UHC and SDG health outcomes. A "Partner round table" on 19 May afternoon gives partners an opportunity to reflect on investing in HIS and better aligning with country priorities.

Organisations co-hosting the meeting

Countries (tbc)	Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Maldives, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, Nepal, Pakistan and Uruguay
Multilateral and Intergovernmental Organisations	UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO (Country and Regional Offices) and World Bank
Bilateral Donors, Philanthropic Institutions and Regional Funding Entities	Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, GIZ and USAID
Global Health Initiatives	GAVI, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
Civil Society & Advocacy	Transform Health
Private Sector	The Palladium Group
Research, Academia and Technical Networks	University of Oslo (WHO collaborating Centre on Innovation and Implementation Research for Health Information Systems Strengthening), Centre for Global Development and US CDC
Health Data Collaborative	Working Group on Data & Digital Governance

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AGENDA

18 May
Day 1

Welcome & Introductions	**09.00 - 09.30**
Video HDC Power of Partnership	
Welcome: facilitated by Samantha Bolton	
Edwin Dikoloti (Minister of Health and Wellness, Botswana)	
Claire Melamed (Chief Executive Officer, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data)	
Opening remarks: WHO	
Samira Asma (Assistant Director General, Division of Data Analytics and Delivery for Impact, World Health Organisation)	
Setting the stage: Keynotes	**09.30 - 10.00**
Enterprise architecture: Enabling the convergence of delivery and data	
Alain Labrique (Director Department of Digital Health & Innovation, World Health Organisation)	
Every country should have robust data and health information systems: A wiser investment for achieving equity and health SDGs	
Lia Tadesse Gebremedhin (Minister of Health, Ethiopia) (tbc)	
Yoon Seok Ko (Executive Principal, National Information Society Agency, Former Leader of Data Department & Data Dam Project, South Korea)	
SCORE as a framework for country health information systems and improving access to technical solutions, understanding and investing in where the gaps are	
Steve MacFeely (Director Department of Data & Analytics, World Health Organisation and co-chair of the HDC)	
Session 1 – Part 1: Learning from country experiences	**10.00 - 11.00**
Successes, challenges and gaps in HIS to reach health-related SDGs: Country roundtable highlighting successes, challenges and opportunities to fast-track progress and investment	
*Naod Wendrad (Strategic Affairs Executive Officer, **Ethiopia** Ministry of Health)*	
*Onalenna Seitio-Kgokgwe (Deputy Permanent Secretary Health Policy Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Assurance, **Botswana** Ministry of Health and Wellness and co-chair of the HDC)*	
*Mwango Mutale (Chief Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (Routine Health Information Systems), **Zambia** Ministry of Health)*	
*Sarbesh Sharma (Director of the Management Division, Department of Health Services, **Nepal** Ministry of Health and Population)*	

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Nassirou Ouro Nile (Chief Information Technology and Communications Division, Togo Ministry of Health)	
Break 11.00 - 11.30 Video on loop HDC intro and background	
Session 1 – Part 2: Approaches of country and partner collaboration Video HDC Kenya the Power of Data in the Community Community engagement for Primary Health Care (PHC) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC): what are data challenges and opportunities to overcome (e.g., Geographic Information System (GIS), Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)) 1. Importance of community engagement for Primary Health Care (PHC) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC), examples of GIS & CRVS partnership for countries *Malawi and Nepal Government teams* 2. Leveraging data and digital transformation for better health *David Novillo Ortiz (Unit Head, Data and Digital Health, European Regional Office, World Health Organisation)* Opportunities to partner and invest for better data governance and Health Information Systems (HIS) *Panel discussion by:* **Multilateral and Intergovernmental Organisations:** *Malarvizhi Veerappan (Senior Data Manager and Program Manager, World Bank)* **Bilateral Donors, Philanthropic Institutions and Regional Funding Entities:** *Ernesto Lembcke (Advisor, Sector Initiative Global Health, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH)* **Civil Society:** *Kirsten Mathieson (Policy and Advocacy Lead, Transform Health)* **Global Health Initiatives:** *Steve Ollis (Project Director, Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) Program, JSI)* **Private Sector:** *Vikas Dwivedi (Senior Health Information Systems Adviser, The Palladium Group)* **Research, Academia and Technical Networks:** *Xen Santas (Global Associate Director Informatics, US CDC)* Q&A facilitated plenary discussion on country partnership	**11.30 - 13.00**
Lunch 13.00 - 14.00 Video on loop HDC intro and background	
Session 2: Data governance: good practices Importance of data governance: views from UN and non-UN/civil society *Non-UN and civil society: Kirsten Mathieson (Policy and Advocacy Lead, Transform Health, and member of the Data & Digital Governance Working Group, HDC) and Victoria Fan (Senior Fellow, Centre for Global Development)*	**14.00 - 15.30**

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UN: Steve MacFeely (Director Data and Analytics, WHO, and co-chair of the HDC)	
Big data infrastructure and management, and good data governance practices: platforms to safely store, disseminate and use data to improve performance of health care in Primary Health Care (PHC) *Xen Santas (Global Associate Director Informatics, US CDC)* *Malarvizhi Veerappan (Senior Data Manager and Program Manager, World Bank)*	
Q&A on applying data governance and facilitated discussion	
Break 15.30 - 16.00 Video on loop HDC intro and background	
Country good data governance practices (from collection to storage, sharing, analysis and use) for health impact: what works *Vikas Dwivedi (Senior Health Information Systems Adviser, The Palladium Group) on behalf of the Health Data Collaborative Data & Digital Governance Working Group* Data Governance practices in South Sudan *John Rumunu (Director General Preventive Health Services, South Sudan Ministry of Health) and Kediende Chong (Director General Policy Planning, South Sudan Ministry of Health)* Country panel reflecting on translating good data governance into practice *Naeem Akhtar (Deputy Director, Pakistan Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination)* *Louis Richard Njock (Secretary General, Cameroon Ministry of Public Health)* *Fathimath Shamah (Director, Maldives Ministry of Health)* *John Rumunu (Director General Preventive Health Services, South Sudan Ministry of Health) and Kediende Chong (Director General Policy Planning, South Sudan Ministry of Health)* *Ima León (Information Systems Director, Uruguay Ministry of Public Health)* *Elibahati Akyoo (Data Officer, WHO Office Tanzania)* Building a data governance framework together: Proposal for *"Adapting good data governance practices for countries"* *Facilitated discussion with countries leading the call*	**16.00 - 18.00**
Reception 18.00 - 20.00	

19 May *Day 2*	
Session 3: Strategies to strengthen HIS in countries Video HDC Botswana The Power of the Data Journey Investing in data for SDGs: Data with purpose and an investment case for data	**09.00 - 11.00**

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Claire Melamed (Chief Executive Officer, The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data)

1. Routine Health Information Systems (RHIS): investment case
   Background literature, stakeholder interviews and country case studies

   Xavier Bosch-Capblanch (Project Leader at the Health Systems Support Unit, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute) and Christian Auer (Public Health Specialist, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute) on behalf of Health Data Collaborative Routine Health Information Systems Working Group

   Craig Burgess (HDC Secretariat) on behalf of external experts group

2. Investing in multiple data sources for optimal decision-making using SCORE:
   • Survey Population and Health Risks
   • Counting births, deaths and causes of death
   • Optimize health service data (RHIS + HHFA)
   • Review Progress and Performance
   • Enable data use for policy and action (global and country levels)

   Jennifer Ellis (Data for Health Initiative for Bloomberg Philanthropies)

   Anh Chu (Health Information Systems, DDI, World Health Organization)

   Naeem Akhter (Deputy Director, Ministry of national Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Government of Pakistan)

Francophone: country health information systems and data governance
   Louis Richard Njock (Secretary General, Cameroon Ministry of Public Health)

   Nassirou Ouro Nile (Chief Information Technology and Communications Division, Togo Ministry of Health)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS): why is it an equitable investment for Health Information Systems?
   Ravi Santhana Gopala Krishnan (GIS Centre Lead, DDI, World Health Organisation)

Improving Health Information Systems investments for health data in countries: engaging stakeholders
   Facilitated plenary discussion with countries and regions

| **Break 11.00 - 11.30** |
| Video on loop HDC intro and background |

Session 4: Advocacy & action to invest and improve HIS in countries	**11.30 - 13.00**
Next steps, timeline and initiatives 2023-24	
Kirsten Mathieson (Policy and Advocacy Lead, Transform Health, and member of Data & Digital Governance Working Group, HDC) and Victoria Fan (Senior Fellow, Centre for Global Development) representing the HDC Data & Digital Governance Working Group	
Craig Burgess (HDC Secretariat)	

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Facilitated discussion and feedback on next steps by countries and regions highlights on next steps Xen Santas (Global Associate Director Informatics, US CDC) Malarvizhi Veerappan (Senior Data Manager and Program Manager, World Bank)	
Lunch 13.00 - 14.00 Video on loop HDC intro and background	

19 May *Partner Roundtable*	

Setting the context for Partner Roundtable	**14.00 - 16.00**
Summary of country needs for investment in HIS and good data governance *Onalenna Seitio-Kgokgwe (Deputy Permanent Secretary Health Policy Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Assurance, **Botswana** Ministry of Health and Wellness and co-chair of the HDC)* SDG3 Global Action Plan: Lessons learned and possible model for supporting countries *Hendrik Schmitz/Isadora Quick (**SDG3 GAP Secretariat**)* **Better data for better health: possible use of SCORE for health data as a framework for partner alignment and to accelerate progress towards health-related SDGs** 1. Comparative advantages of each partner organisation and approaches for better alignment with country priorities 2. Stepping up country capacity from 2018 SCORE assessment to 2024/25 assessment 3. Prioritising support on Least-developed Countries by 2024 Partners share insights to the following themes: • Effective partner collaboration: better alignment amongst donors to prioritise investment and promote good data governance practices • Aligning partner priorities with country priorities • Strategies to attract investment in country HIS: why is there low or inefficient investment in HIS? • Operationalising good data governance • Tracking our collective progress and using HDC platform to leverage comparative advantages Partnering with countries to accelerate progress to SDGs: ***Canada:** Marnie Davidson (Senior Health Specialist, Canadian Government)* ***Data for Health Initiative, Bloomberg Philanthropies:** Jennifer Ellis (Public Health Team)* ***GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH:** Ernesto Lembcke (Advisor, Sector Initiative Global Health) [also representing USAID comments]* ***GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance:** Heidi Reynolds (Senior Specialist Evaluation and Learning)*	

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Global Financing Facility: Maletela Tuoane (Senior Expert on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics)

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria: Mark Landry (Senior Specialist, Country Digital Health Information Systems)

Norway: Tine Larsen (Senior Adviser, Department for Human Development, Section for Global Health)

SDG3 Global Acton Plan Secretariat: Hendrik Schmitz and Isadora Quick (SDG3 GAP Secretariat)

Transform Health: Kirsten Mathieson (Policy and Advocacy Lead)

UK FCDO: Desmond Whyms, Health Adviser, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Developemnt Office

UNICEF: Remy Mwamba (Statistics and Monitoring Specialist)

University of Oslo: Ola Titlestad (DHIS 2 Implementation Coordinator)

UNFPA: Romesh Silva (Technical Specialist, Health & Social Inequalities) & Sainan Zhang (Technical Specialist)

US CDC: Xen Santas (Global Associate Director Informatics)

World Bank: Malarvizhi Veerappan (Senior Data Manager and Program Manager)

Summary and next steps
Tashi Chozom and Mwenya Kasonde (HDC Secretariat)