Concept note: The role of Health Information Systems

‘...Health information systems (HIS) underpin decision-making in health policy, management and clinical care through the collection, standardization, coding and management of information relevant to indicators of health status, determinants of health, and health systems.’

(Source: WHO Alliance for health policy and systems research)
Particular Attention: Beneficial relationship between financing and data

**Revenue Raising:** Major public finance budget submissions and negotiations for health rely on data about population and sub-population health needs, including actual and potential rehabilitation needs. In addition, data are needed about health system services, coverage, performance, and gaps.

**Pooling:** Pooled funds rely on data about population health, to adjust for risks and ensure coverage. Data is needed about populations which are high risk, vulnerable or who have high care needs.

**Strategic Purchasing Systems:** Within the purchaser-provider framework, data about population health, service delivery and performance, are needed to inform benefit package design and resource allocation as well as provider payment methods including the selection and contracting of providers.

WHO (forthcoming) Moving towards strategic purchasing for UHC: What are the key policy issues and questions?
Concept Note: Information Needs for Rehabilitation

• **Breadth of necessary information:** ‘In the 21\textsuperscript{st} century the world faces a new set of challenges: rapid population ageing accompanied with a rise in chronic conditions and multi-morbidity…’

• **Depth of information needed:** Interventions to improve capacity to execute tasks and actions, modification of the environment to improve performance, finding the best fit between capacity and the environment to maximize performance

(Source: Meeting Concept Note)
Data is important for decision making and strengthening rehabilitation systems

The challenge is to develop these data systems consistent with broader health information systems.
## Characteristics of Modern Data Systems

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Multi-source:</th>
<th>Data will be received from health and other sectors, and more often, data will be a by-product of another activity.</th>
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<td>Multi-method:</td>
<td>Data will be collected using differing methodologies: therefore, analysis and use will need to accommodate differing collection methods.</td>
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| Multi-purpose:      | Data will be used for multiple purposes, particularly for real time and aggregate data needs."
|                     | Each record must be useful at a granular level, and must be comparable and consistent for aggregation purposes. |
| Technology-enabled: | Data can be captured and processed at the point of entry for real time data use and for aggregation."
|                     | Larger volumes of data can be captured, data can be readily linked. |

(Statistics and Health Organization)
Conceptualizing rehabilitation data in a Health Information System

Program Data for Rehabilitation

- Individual records
- Assessments
- Service records
- Service delivery
- Performance
- Resource records
- Program outcomes
- Program data
- Facilities data
- Surveys
- Census
- Other data

Individual Data

Improving individual records – content, standards, collection

Data Sharing, management, linkage
Summary

• Data about rehabilitation is important for policy, financing, service delivery, management and clinical care.

• In the future, data systems will increasingly be multi-source, multi-method, multi-purpose, technology-enabled.

• Design of better data systems occurs at the outset: now is an opportune time
The world needs better health data....