Health Metrics Network
An update after 50 days

Current practices in health information
Opportunities for improvement
Added value of HMN
Process of development
FAQ - what is HMN not?

HMN is not:

- A WHO initiative
- An effort to create new HMN programmes in countries
- An effort that purely focuses on the global level
- An alliance that only aims to coordinate
- An excellent name
FAQ - what is HMN?

HMN is:

• A partnership in the making involving a wide range of stakeholders world-wide
• A platform that considers **sound** health information an essential foundation for public health planning
• An action-oriented alliance that puts strengthening country HIS at the center but pays attention to global and local needs
PRODUCTION AND USE OF HEALTH INFORMATION
CURRENT STATUS
Need for sound health information: essential foundation for public health programs

- Prioritizing mobilization and allocation of resources
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Identifying emerging new health challenges
- Making effective managerial decisions on program design and implementation
Levels of production of health information and use of health information

DEMAND
Users of health information at each level
Knowledge
Action

SUPPLY
Production of health information at each level
Collection
Analysis
Dissemination

Global Regions
Countries
Provinces
Districts
Communities
Facilities
Levels of use of health information: same principles at different levels

DATA → INFORMATION → KNOWLEDGE → ACTION

Analysis → Understanding → Application → Assessment

Health Management

Strategic Information

Program M&E

Global Regions → Countries → Provinces → Districts → Communities → Facilities
Production of health information: tools

1970
- Censuses
- Vital registration

1980
- Health research
- Service statistics
- Disease surveillance
- Facility assessments
- HH surveys: DHS

1990
- Modelling
- Health research
- Service statistics
- Disease surveillance
- Facility assessments
- HH surveys: DHS, MICS
- LSMS, WHS
- CDC-RH, other
- Vital registration
- Censuses

2000
- Household surveys: DHS, MICS
- LSMS, WHS
- CDC-RH, other
- Vital registration +
- Censuses
Production of health information: tool coverage by level

- Outbreak surveillance
- Censuses
- Vital registration
- Sample VR
- Surveys

- Modelling & estimates
- Global Regions
- Countries
- Provinces
- Districts
- Communities
- Facilities

HMIS
Production of health information: areas of measurement

- Costs /expenditures
- Equity
- Risk factors
- Coverage of services
- Nutritional status
- Morbidity
- Adult mortality
- Child mortality

GOAL
To make sound public health information available for use on a sustainable basis to guide health programmes and policies at the local, country and global levels

Major barriers to the goal (from McK interviews)

Capacity
- Lack of donor support to build country systems
- Lack of domestic investment in health information
- Too few trained people or training infrastructure

Coordination
- Primarily donor/disease-specific information focus
- Donors/technical agencies reluctant to collaborate and avoid duplication
- Coordination difficult even at country level (sectors, levels, donors)

Application
- Data not used by local/country/global decision makers
- Lack of quality control, standardization
- Limited transparency
- Lack of national and local data on health
- Limited link between health and other sectors
Why Health Metrics Network NOW?

OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE HEALTH INFORMATION
Opportunities to address the barriers (1)

Opportunities: International

- More initiatives and commitment to equity in health with specific **goals and targets**:  
  - more resources for health information  
  - requires better coordination between initiatives

- Increased emphasis on **standardization** of targets and tools to improve efficiency and **data quality**

- **Technological** improvements: biomarkers, information technology, GIS
Opportunities: National

- Increased need and awareness to develop a **well-coordinated system**, guided by a national plan, coordinating mechanisms, technical capacity, data use strategy

- New stimulus to produce **quality timely information** for better health policy making, planning and evaluation (e.g. performance based disbursement)

- Rising need for **subnational** health information in the context of decentralization of public services
A coordinated effort to collect, process, analyze, disseminate and use health information and knowledge for Health Metrics Network: where focus on Strengthening of Country HIS, Strengthening of subnational HIS, and Improve global information.
Health Metrics Network: an international alliance in the making

• Overall goal: To improve availability and use of sound health information at local, national and global levels

• Required action to improve current situation:
  – advocacy for health information
  – resource mobilization and enhanced efficiency of investments HIS
  – normative work on indicators and tools
  – promote quality reporting by countries
  – capacity building for production and use
  – coordination and knowledge sharing
  – develop innovations in health measurement

• Potential alliance synergies: reduce costs, accelerate progress, improve effectiveness, share or reduce risks
Process of development of the Health Metrics Network: Progress
Interim Steering Committee
Chaired by WHO and Gates Foundation
About 30 members

Task Force
Coordinators and secretaries of issues groups; Representatives of major investors, countries

Issues groups
Country HIS
Information needs for HIV, TB, Malaria
Equity
Monitoring vital events
Surveys
Surveillance
Modelling & estimates

Development structure
McKinsey consultants

Subcommittee on governance
Meeting 2 early January
Meeting 2 end Nov
Final synthesis paper
Preparatory work Sep-Oct
Issues papers mid Nov
Interviews stakeholders Sep-Oct
Proposal structure Nov
Health Metrics Network: what structure will meet its goals?

• Governance models

• Secretariat location and mandate

• Resource management

• Selected key factors affecting decisions on structure:
  – co-ownership by key players, especially main investors in data-information-knowledge production
  – effective mechanisms to hear voice of major clients, such as major investors in international health programmes and countries
  – efficiency of operations
Health Metrics Network: some emerging ideas on the functions

- **Coordination function:** advocacy, best practices, enhanced collaboration by investors, standardization tools and methods, setting standards for good practices, developing and promoting research agenda, facilitating global goals monitoring

- **Strengthening country HIS (reform):** situation and needs assessment, technical support system build-up or reform; resources for catalyzing change; regional involvement; prioritization of countries

- **Global initiatives:** investing in innovation, producing tools and methods, research agenda, pro-active info sharing, country assistance
  - District data initiative
  - Evaluation of scale up
  - Equity in health
  - Health status measurement
Thank you