

SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

The communiqué issued at the end of two-day *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* and approved by participants is as follows:

***Communiqué Issued at the
First National Health and Mapping Summit
Held at the Reiz Continental Hotel, Abuja
18-19 October 2011***

Development of a sustainable system for the production and the utilization of quality data is key to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) especially the health related ones.

Disease mapping and research is useful in the understanding of the functional relationship between diseases and their intrinsic spatial characteristics such as location, type, diffusion poles, socio-economic and behavioral patterns of the patients. Geospatial Data Infrastructure provision for Health Services will lead to improve health outcomes.

Mindful of the above and in an effort to achieve collaboration between Health and Mapping agencies in Nigeria, the Government of Nigeria in collaboration with USAID through MEASURE Evaluation organized the Health & Mapping Summit 2011 with its objective geared towards facilitating cooperation between Nigeria's health and mapping Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the fight against HIV/AIDS and related health and social service; increase awareness and sharing of geospatial resources within Nigeria to enhance decision making for health sector programs and create an action plan to help address identified challenges.

After two-day highly enlightening Summit, with over 140 participants in attendance we the stakeholders in the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure (NGDI) hereby resolve as follows:

- Develop a coordination mechanism for the linking of NGDI to the Nigeria health sector. The operation and secretariat of its implementation is proposed to be accommodated within the Department of Planning, and Research of the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to serve as an NASRDA coordinated NGDI sectoral Node.
- Create an online resource centre on health geo-information.
- Facilitate the process of enacting a geo-information policy.
- Conduct an assessment for geo-spatial data needs for the health sector.
- Establish dedicated Web site for Nigeria *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* at the DHPR of the FMOH.
- Hold a *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit* annually as a forum to showcase research/projects within the health sector.
- Involve and harmonize the efforts of relevant local training institutions in developing human capacity on geospatial studies in the health sector.

- Engage with other sectors such as water resources, agriculture, environment, etc. to start similar conferences.
- National Planning Commission to support MDAs to develop effective funding mechanism through a budget line for the application of NGDI in their programs.
- Create an Internet forum for stakeholders to share technical discussions.

By adopting the *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* communique, the Federal Government of Nigeria and stakeholders have recognized the value of linking health and mapping sector data and efforts. This is a first of its kind formalization of the value of such linkages by nations and subsequent commitment to pursue such linkages. The communiqué can serve as a model for other countries in Africa. To view the draft reports of the Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011 and Communiqué, please see the Federal Ministry of Health Web site www.fmh.gov.ng or MEASURE Evaluation Web site www.cpc.unc.edu/measure.

Workshop Web Page

To provide access to *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* results, Federal Ministry of Health has posted the final report on the Ministry Web page and MEASURE Evaluation also has published a Web page that contains presentations and other materials. Each section of the outline provides links to relevant content, such as the agenda, presentations, and reports. The Web page can be accessed at www.measureevaluation.org/nigeria.

Conclusions

A key objective of *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* workshop was to encourage and foster the creation of linkages among the Nigeria NMA and health agencies in the country. These linkages can lead to a stronger data infrastructure, better data for decision making, and less duplication of effort in building spatial data and capacity. Although building these linkages will require a long-term effort, the workshop did achieve some important short-term results:

- strong representation of mapping and health, and related organizations from public and private sectors including academia;
- overwhelmingly positive comments received during the *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* and from a post-conference remarks;
- tangible results of the group work sessions, including identification of the most significant issues affecting mapping of health related data including HIV data in participant organizations and issuing of *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* communiqué;
- adoption of all of the *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* communiqué by the participants and agreement to present the conference report including the communiqué to the executive and legislative arms of government for their concurrence and political supports; and
- enthusiasm by organizers and participants for future *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summits* that extend beyond health but include other social services such as education, water, agriculture etc.

To continue the momentum generated by the *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011*, Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with MEASURE Evaluation's next steps are to:

- prepare a comprehensive *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* report and post it on the Federal Ministry of Health Web page in order to continue encourage and foster the continued collaboration of summit participants;
- present the final report to the Honourable Minister of Health, Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Chairmen Senate Committees on Health and Science and Technology, House Committee Chairmen on Health and Science & Technology and other relevant stakeholders;
- support the airing of a 30-minute program about the *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* on the National Television Station; and
- assess the value of future conferences, especially extending beyond the health sector.

As of the time of writing this report, the discussion with Ministry of Health on the development of the virtual community practice in the Ministry of Health Web page as it relate to health sector and mapping activities is being explore.

A two-day event such as the Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011 is limited in what it can accomplish, and should be seen as part of a longer and larger process. The key to successful realization of the *Nigeria Health and Mapping Summit 2011* goal and objectives is the involvement of all key stakeholders who formed part of the steering committee, but particularly the representatives from the NMAs and the health sector agencies. Ultimate success or failure rests on the will and desire within each organization or sector to make such linkages. Encouragingly, based on responses to a post-conference evaluation survey, participants felt the event was a helpful first step in the long process of building linkages across the health and mapping sectors, and there was an expressed commitment among participants to build and strengthen those linkages.