

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the MEASURE Evaluation PIMA Update (MEval-PIMA) showcases our county health profiles, which are a product to promote the use of data for decision making by county health management teams (CHMTs). A county health profile presents quarterly performance data on priority indicators selected from the county health sector strategic plan. Performance data help inform decision making by CHMTs and sub-county health management teams (SCHMTs), and are also used to help technical teams identify areas for improvement in services.

County health profiles are developed collaboratively by teams drawn from the CHMT and stakeholders that are implementing various health-related interventions in the county. MEval-PIMA provides leadership and technical assistance to teams for metrics, performance improvement strategies, and advocacy.

The origin of the county health profile

The need for a county health profile became apparent when findings of a baseline assessment undertaken by MEval-PIMA in 2013 showed limited capacity of CHMTs to use health information for decision making. The assessment examined the capacity of CHMTs to plan and monitor performance in the health sector, focusing on 12 core capacity areas, including data demand and use (DDU). A key recommendation on DDU was to develop interventions that promote and support decisions based on evidence.

Data on health sector performance should be easy to understand and timely if they are to support decision making within the county's health leadership and to achieve optimum performance of the CHMT. So far, MEval-PIMA has supported the development of health profiles in Nakuru, Machakos, Migori, Uasin Gishu, Homa Bay, and Kisumu counties.

In a recent meeting to review performance indicators presented in the latest quarterly edition of his county profile, Dr. Benedict Osore, the director of administration and planning in Nakuru County, noted that the profiles were useful for comparing the differences in performance of county services over the three-month interval.

"The profile has been helpful in program-based planning, reporting on the indicators, and contributes to performance monitoring," Dr. Osore said. "Where gaps exist, corrective actions can be taken based on evidence presented by the data."



Photo by Yvonne Oltieno, MEval-PIMA

Dr. Benedict Osore, County Director Administration and Planning Nakuru County, Kenya

Several counties are requesting support to develop similar products, an indication of the need for synthesized data for decision making, presented in a visual format, for users at the community, health facility, and policymaking levels.

For more about MEval-PIMA's work on data demand and use, read [Strengthening Data Demand and Use](#).

To find out more about developing a county profile, read this [county profile factsheet](#).

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Since 2012, MEASURE Evaluation PIMA has worked to build capacity for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) among personnel at the ministry of health and civil registration and vital statistics programs in Kenya. Using the district health information systems software (DHIS 2) as one of its main data sources, MEASURE Evaluation PIMA has built capacity among county health management teams and civil registration officers for M&E health services delivery by analyzing, and presenting data in a user-friendly format.

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