

# Health Information System Stages of Continuous Improvement Toolkit



## What Works to Strengthen the Systems that Inform Health Services?

The Health Information System (HIS) Stages of Continuous Improvement (SOCI) Toolkit helps countries holistically assess and prioritize investments to strengthen their HIS. An assessment using the toolkit measures current and desired HIS status, and it maps a path for a system to improve. Using the toolkit, countries can increase the availability of timely data so they can make decisions with more confidence that better health outcomes will follow.

The SOCI toolkit complements efforts by the World Health Organization to strengthen the capacity of countries' HIS and workforce to monitor progress toward universal health coverage and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for health.

The HIS SOCI Toolkit is designed so that any country can adapt it for these purposes:

- Fit the country context
- Employ a country-led design to build consensus
- Integrate individual and group assessment methods
- Measure status and future goals and automatically generate scores and identify gaps in HIS
- Guide selection and implementation of HIS interventions and monitor progress

For example, Uganda's Ministry of Health used the tool to set priorities for action—among them, development of an HIS strategic plan.

The HIS SOCI toolkit consists of an Excel-based assessment tool, a user guide, and a scale that measures 39 essential subcomponents of an HIS across five stages, from "emerging" to "optimized."

## What to look for in HIS components

Core HIS domains	Essential HIS components
HIS governance and leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIS strategy</li> <li>• Policy, legal, and regulatory framework and compliance</li> <li>• HIS leadership and governance organizational structures and functions</li> </ul>
HIS management and workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIS workforce capacity and development</li> <li>• Financial management</li> </ul>
HIS information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation and maintenance</li> <li>• Communication network, local area network (LAN), and wide area network (WAN)</li> <li>• Business continuity</li> </ul>
HIS standards and interoperability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards and guidelines</li> <li>• HIS core services</li> <li>• Interoperability (data exchange)</li> </ul>
Data quality and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data quality assurance</li> <li>• Data use</li> </ul>

**The HIS SOCI Toolkit was a joint effort of the MEASURE Evaluation project, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development; the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the Health Data Collaborative digital health and interoperability working group.**



**Coming soon:** A web-based version of the tool will enable countries and organizations to engage many national- and subnational-level stakeholders to complete individual assessments and engage in a consultative process to create an HIS improvement plan. Look for it here: <https://www.measureevaluation.org/his-strengthening-resource-center/his-stages-of-continuous-improvement-toolkit>.

For more information, visit [www.measureevaluation.org](http://www.measureevaluation.org) or email [measure@unc.edu](mailto:measure@unc.edu).

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