

## **A Decentralized Information System for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Maternal and Child Health/Family Planning Program Performance**

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## **Problems Encountered Before Decentralization**

**Poor quality and incomplete nature of data produced by the routine collection system**

**Fragmentation of data collection systems, too often vertically organized rather than by priority programs**

**Delay in the availability of information at all levels**

**Insufficient utilization of available data for the planning, management and evaluation of service delivery**

## **Restructuring of the Health Information System**

- **Promote usage of information to improve service quality**
- **Integrate the data collection from the different MCH/FP programs by promoting a holistic approach to child and reproductive health**
- **Introduce new programmatic focuses, such as the integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) and the management of obstetric emergencies**

## **Restructuring Activities**

- **Revision of data collection supports**
- **Development of a computerized MCH/FP data entry and analysis system**
- **Training of managers at regional and provincial levels in the utilization of data for decision-making**

## **Revision of Data Collection Supports**

- **Restructuring DCS linked to child health to better respond to the needs of the IMCI approach**
- **Restructuring the DCS of obstetrical services**
- **Simplifying MCH/FP data transmission procedures by a creating a monthly report in booklet form, which would contain all the MCH/FP data of a health facility**
- **Operational research on the decentralization of epidemiological surveillance**

# **Objectives for Decentralization of Data Entry to the Provincial Level**

**Improving the quality of MCH/FP data collected at peripheral level**

**Encouraging the use of data at regional, provincial and health center levels**

**Reducing delays in data availability at central and regional levels**

## ***Système SMIPF Application:***

### **Data Processing and Analysis Possibilities**

- Define the list of Health Centers and the target populations in each province
- Enter the data for MCH/FP program and curative services by Health Center based on monthly reports
- Transmit data by e-mail to SEIS and/or the regional managers
- Produce summary reports on program performances at the health center, province, region, and national level
- Calculate the major MCH/FP program indicators, and present them in tabular, graphic or geographic form

# **Training in Data Utilization**

**Program evaluation techniques**

**Use of indicators for program management at the central and provincial levels.**

**Targeted at statisticians and program facilitators at provincial level**

**Identify major problems and proceed with problem-solving actions**

**Qualitative investigation to find operational solutions**



## **Lessons Learned**

- **The decentralization of the information system management has increased the use of MCH/FP information for evidence-based decision making.**
- **Creating an information culture is a long-term behavioral intervention.**
- **Computerized data processing requires both capital and recurrent investments**
- **Investment is worthwhile**