

RHINO Workshop

Issues and Innovations in Routine Health Information Systems in Developing Countries

Working Group 1

Defining a Rationale for Coordinated Investments in Routine Health Information

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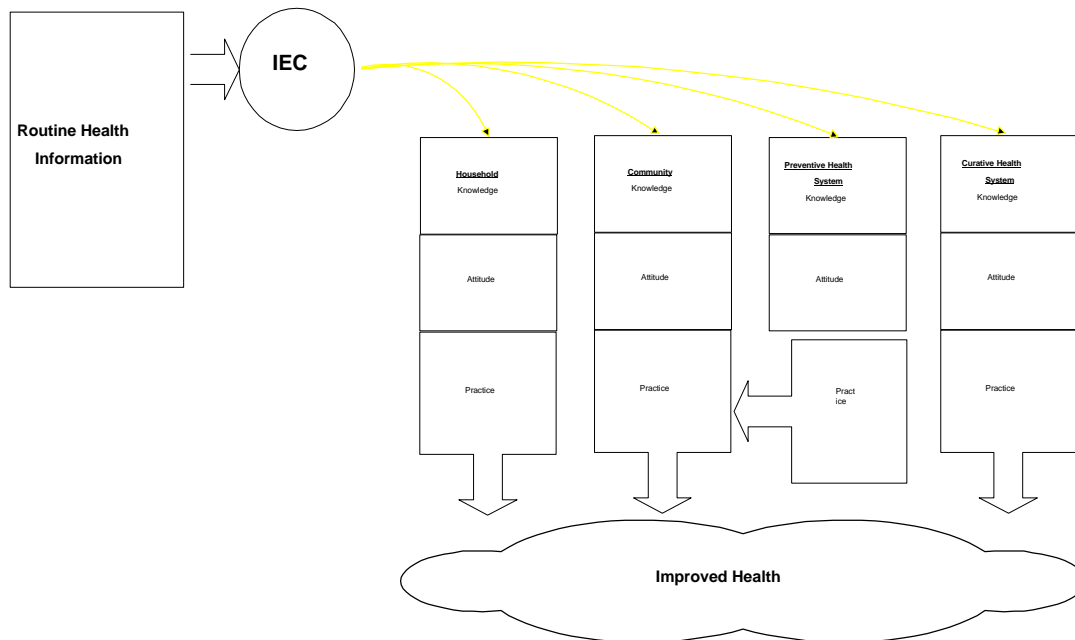
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Better information is central to better health.

This is our belief.

Cannot “prove” this but we have lots of anecdotal evidence. Call for RHINO to assemble a body of knowledge to support this thesis (and sponsor research).

In order to convince investment in RHI, we need to prove a “causal relationship” between better RHI and better health.



Lessons Learned

- Project-based investments are not sustainable
- Horizon for results is long-term (10+ years)
- Quality Will Improve with Investment
- Data should be “organic”

Project-specific IS – should be sustainable. They should be linked to the current RHIS and not a parallel data system.

Quality – Quality will always be an issue but this should be a reason to invest in the system, not ignore the data. Countries should report the “known” quality of the data (i.e. completeness and accuracy). Just knowing the quality is often sufficient and serves as a baseline for improvements. Data that is used will improve in quality.

Data should be “Organic” used where it is collected

Resist “data imperialism”. Data should come from local needs and not imposed from above. International agencies should work with indigenous data and not impose (often arbitrary) data requirements.

Recommendations

- ***Invest in Improving the Quality of RHI to Nurture Investor Confidence***
- International Groups Should Support the local RHI system
- Negotiate for Mutual Gains
- “Information Overhead” Budget Item

QA :

The excuse that the RHI is not good should be a stimulus for investment in RHI, not a reason to ignore or bypass the system. Create a “virtuous cycle” of investment in improving the RHI quality. Should not

Data should be reported with its “known” quality. This can be used as a stimulus to improve data quality.

International Groups should not impose data requirements (should accept data from RHIS and should invest in improving the RHIS) IG should understand that they have a special power with their funding and not use this to impose requirements. No “special” data elements

No “parallel data collection”

No special reporting time

International groups should support the RHI system of the country by not requiring special data sets and not requiring parallel data collection or Reporting periods.

International groups should work to improve the existing RHI system.

Information Overhead Budget Item should support RHIS (basket) and not just project specific data.

Specific Activities for RHINO

- Information Bank on RHIS benefits
- Online Journal on RHIS
- ***Operations Research on RHIS***

Should develop a knowledge base and support research on RHIS benefits