

RHINO Workshop

Issues and Innovations in Routine Health Information Systems in Developing Countries

Working Group 2

Coordination Issues

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Coordination in Questions

- What mechanisms exist for coordinating of investments at international and national levels?
- What lessons learned from the past related to: setting national priorities for RHIS investment; the role of external assistance organizations in RHIS development; *the role of the private sector?*
- What recommendations would the group make to improve coordination of investment in RHIS?

Where is more evidence required?

Coordination Scope:

National	Existing Mechanisms
	Lessons Learned
International	Recommendations:
	Principles
	Activities
	Research Agenda

Existing Mechanisms:

- *At international level:* not much on RHIS in particular but many networks on public health information and general contents do exist (helena, epiet, RNIS)
- *At national level:* existence of RHIS committees mostly focused on the public sector

National Level: General Principals

Lessons Learned: The establishment of broad-based (MoH, providers, users, funders) RHIS coordination committee has been successful in most of the cases

- Early consensus building leads to conflict resolution and sense of ownership of the process

Recommendations: Promote national coordination committees to deal with planning (TA), regulation (IT, data management), implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the RHIS development process

- The development process is slow and lengthy, and this should be taken into consideration when planning, or funding such program
- However, it is necessary to select elements for showing quick results that keep momentum for the overall process

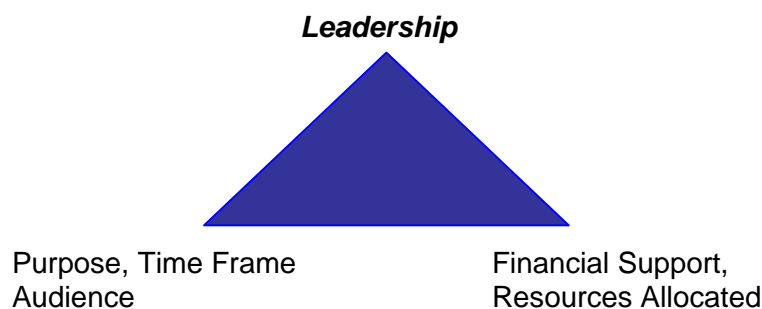
International Level: General Principles

Lessons Learned: Examples of coordination network which failed were those with little financial support and institutional commitment, as well as those with too ambitious objectives and poorly defined mandate, and no focused leadership

Recommendations:

- RHINO = a network of institutions and individuals sharing the same goals in RHIS is an appropriate coordination mechanism
- The requirement for such a network to exist and to be sustainable is appropriate funding, leadership, purpose and audience/participation
- Donor coordination needs to be in place and related to RHINO

Coordination: Preconditions for Sustainability



International Level: Recommendation on Activities

- ***The immediate deliverable:***
- Report on this workshop
- Set up of the RHINO secretariat under the Measure/Evaluation Project
- Pooling of experience and learnings and make this available to RHINO members (through an accessible and efficient communication mechanism i.e. www)
- ***The mid-term or conditional*** (funding and official commitment)
- resource mobilisation,
- creation of an information exchange platform through the development of a web site that follows a process of identifying the network objectives, content, communication features, audience, users,
- give legitimacy to the network (MoUs? Boards?) Is it the last time we meet?
- ***The long-term vision:***
- workshop (live and on line)
- exchanges visits,
- coordination of research activities (including ethical review board),
- data center and virtual library,
- tool box (case studies, software applications, communication channels)

Research Agenda

- Explore existing HIS coordination bodies and their relationship with RHINO
- How coordination can maximise evidence-based decision making