

## **RHINO Workshop**

### **Issues and Innovations in Routine Health Information Systems in Developing Countries**

#### **Working Group 4**

#### **RHI and Health System Development**

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#### **Lessons Learned**

*RHI should support not drive the health system development process*

- Data should be used by all levels of the system
- All levels of staff need to be engaged in the use and analysis of data
- RHI can be used in the assessment of appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of interventions
- RHI provides an opportunity to bring together stakeholders who wouldn't normally come together [Catalyst]
- RHI requires the mapping stakeholders' interests to be successful [politics and power]
- RHI can be used to monitor process and intended outcomes of reform
- On-the-job training must be supported by well-written, culturally appropriate manuals
- RHI can be made more powerful through bringing in logical blocks of semi permanent data and linking it with sentinel systems and surveys
- Incentive systems have been found to make RHI more effective [positive feedback is a strong incentive]
- In order to provide a strong functioning public sector RHI system, it is important to find ways to gather information from the private sector

#### **Priority One:**

##### **Recommendations**

Countries should have a health information policy which is compatible with overall health policy

RHI should be flexible to support change as a result of health sector reform

RHI should work on the continuous improvement of data quality

##### **Activities**

- Nationally developed policy using a broad participatory approach
- Collect and keep data dis-aggregated for use at the community & facility level
- Find mechanisms to assess the quality of data

#### **Priority Two:**

##### **Recommendations**

##### **Activities**

Explore ways to involve local govts. in RHI

- Build capacity for local govt. to understand and use RHI
- Research on the contribution of RHI to local govt. decision-making

Senior policy makers should encourage the use of data in decision-making

- Performance review workshops
- Creation of a non-punitive environment

Countries should be encouraged to have a policy on capacity building in order to reduce fragmentation

- Assessment of RHIS needs
- A govt.-led not donor-led strategies

- Capacity building needs to be followed up
- Opportunities to use training should be provided
- There must be a capacity to train locally

- Training should be linked to daily activities

### **Priority Three:**

Technical assistance (TA) should be of the highest quality tailored to needs and capacity of countries (human resource, training, technology)

- QA mechanism for TA
- Create database of experts and monitor long term impacts of their activities
- Involve govt. in identifying TA

RHI should support facilitate innovation

A database of evidence of what works and what doesn't work in RHI in health systems development

- Development of a research agenda to achieve this, e.g. meta analysis, tracer studies