

Strengthening Health Information Systems for Improved Health Outcomes: Accelerator's contribution to the Ghana Ministry of Health

Authors and Affiliations

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Introduction

The Ghana Health Sector acknowledges the significance of quality information in health planning, management, and policy development. However, there is a need for more coordinated investments in creating an enabling environment, building infrastructure, and enhancing capacity for health information management. Moreover, the absence of interoperability standards has resulted in restricted information sharing among the agencies of the Ministry of Health which negatively impacts informed decision-making.

Objectives

Need for the development and implementation of a Health Information System Strategic Plan (HISSP) to guide the Ghana Health Sector to:

- Improve the environment for health information management
- Improve data sharing, data exchange (inter-operability), storage, dissemination and use
- Improve capacity for managing health information at all levels
- Ensure effective implementation of the Health Information System Strategic Plan (HISSP)

Approach

- Formation of an Inter-agency Technical Working Group** with representation from Development Partners and Private Sector to contextualize the HISSP development within Ghana settings
 - Desk review** of National Health Policy (January 2020), Ghana's Roadmap for attaining UHC (2020-2030), Health Sector Medium-Term Dev't Plan (2022-2025), Strategic Plans of the various agencies and programs, etc., and drafted the HISSP
 - Conducted several agency, stakeholder, and Development Partner engagements for review and feedback on the draft HISSP**
 - Final revisions made** to the HISSP based on feedback received and submitted to the Minister for review and approval received in 2024
- HISSP published on the Ministry of Health's Website: <http://moh.gov.gh>
>> Policy Document

Results

A Strategic Plan has been developed for the Ghana Health Sector, serving as a roadmap for Health Information Management from 2022 to 2025. There is visibility and buy-in from agencies, partners, and stakeholders for the HISSP. This is crucial for supporting the implementation and alignment of activities with the HISSP.

The World Bank/Global Financing Facility (WB/GFF) is providing support for the implementation of the Data Needs and Interoperability Assessment activity of the HISSP. This activity aims to identify priority indicators, define routine analytic needs and reports, assess the feasibility of integration and interoperability, and produce a report on data use and interoperability assessment. The assessment indicates that the eight selected agencies are ready for interoperability and can be connected to the National Health Database. A workplan for integrating the data systems of these agencies into the National Health Database has been developed.

USAID's Accelerator project supported the Ministry of Health in the development of the Health Information Systems Strategic Plan (HISSP). Additionally, Accelerator has been supporting the Ministry of Health in the establishment of the **National Health Database** for the Ghana Health Sector. This database serves as an information exchange framework as outlined in the HISSP. The primary objective of this database platform is to integrate various sources of health data into a centralized repository. By doing so, it equips the Ministry of Health, relevant agencies, and stakeholders with the capability to obtain a comprehensive, coherent, and up-to-date overview of the performance of the Ghana health sector. Currently, the databases of three agencies are successfully connected to the National Health database and the Ghana Integrated Logistics Management Information System (GhILMIS).



<< Brainstorming session of the TWG during one of the HISSP development workshops in Accra



>> Presentation and discussion of the National Health Database, a product of the HISSP by MoH to R4D and USAID in the R4D Office, Accra

Recommendations

- There is a need for the Ministry to strategically engage its agencies, stakeholders and Development Partners to support the implementation of the strategies and activities outlined in the HISSP.
- Moreover, it is important to engage and integrate additional agencies into the National Health Database. This will expand data access and sharing enabling the comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of the Health Sector Medium-Term Development Strategic Plan, and encourage triangulation among others.

Conclusions

Careful implementation of the strategies outlined in the Health Information Systems Strategic Plan will revolutionize the Ghana Health Sector. To ensure a successful rollout, it is important to engage a broader range of stakeholders, secure adequate funding, and effectively monitor the implementation process.

RSIM MOH

Ingestion
The data ingestion involves pulling data from various sources for all registered agencies and moving it to the lake house where it can be processed and analyzed by data scientists and other users.

Compute
Visualization interfaces for presenting data insights through graphs, charts, and dashboards.

Storage
A lakehouse is a modern data management architecture which operates by ingesting large amounts of raw data in both structured and unstructured formats.

Data Dictionary
Access comprehensive details and properties associated with agency data, allowing users to gather crucial metadata information effortlessly.

Quick Links

- Visualization
- Metadata
- Ingestion
- Storage (Data on MoH Server)

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National Health Database Landing Page