

Management of Health Data and Information

HIV/AIDS in Resource Constrained Settings

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President's Emergency Plan on AIDS Relief -- Background

- Announced in 2003
- 15 “focus” countries
 - Most in sub-Saharan Africa
- \$15 billion over 5 years
 - Some through mechanisms such as the Global Fund
- Managed by the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator
- U.S. Government-wide effort
 - Dept. of State, USAID, HHS (CDC, HRSA), DoD, Peace Corps, and so on ...



President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief -- Goals

Treat 2 million with ART

2008

Total number of clients served by ART and PMTCT+ programs

Prevent 7 million new infections

2010

Estimated from program data, impact models, and from epidemic models/projections

Care and support for
10 million AIDS
orphans and PLWHAs

2008

Total number of clients receiving HIV Care and support (general clinical care, OI, TB, Palliative) + AIDS Orphans



Role of the Information Systems

- Provide timely and accurate information needed to deliver services
- Monitor progress toward meeting goals
- Improve program efficiency and quality

What is an Information System?

- The organizational framework and technical infrastructure for collecting and managing data, and for turning it into information that is used productively

Components of an Information System

- Human resources
- Communications channels (bi-directional)
- Protocols and training
- Supervision
- Quality control
- Analysis and feedback
- Paper-based data collection forms
- Electronic databases
- Data transmission facilities
- Hardware and software

Organizational

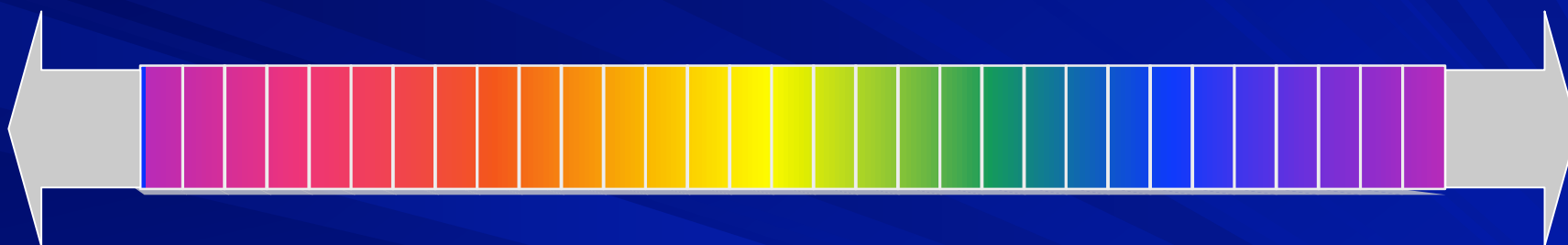


Technological

Examples of Information Systems Supporting HIV Programs

- Pharmacy management
- Laboratory management information
- Logistics/supply chain management
- Program monitoring (OVC, palliative care)
- Targeted program evaluation
- Facility-based patient information systems
- National notifiable disease reporting systems
- Vital statistics registries
- Facility-based surveys (e.G. ANC clinics)
- Population-based surveys

Building the National Health Information System



Need to meet
short-term data
and reporting
requirements

Need to build
long-term
sustainable health
management
systems

(Some) Issues Working Against Effective Information Systems

- Poor planning – strategic and in implementation
 - No coordination, unrealistic expectations, no follow through, fragmentation
- Lack of sustainability
 - Costly or complex solutions with unstable funding

(Some) Issues Working Against Effective Information Systems

- Workforce (a myriad of issues)
 - Work load, salaries, training, etc.
- Competing pressures for data
- Focus only on ICT and not the whole information system
 - The (sometimes) false appeal of the latest and greatest
- Lack of standards in some areas

Work with partners who know
the situation on the ground

... but even that is no guarantee!



Traditional HMIS Partners

- International organizations (WHO, UNAIDS)
- National Governments
 - MoH, NAC
- Donors
- Provincial governments
- NGOs including faith-based
- Local universities and schools of medicine
- U.S. universities
- Private partners
 - Reached most often through the above organizations



HMIS Decision Process

- Each USG in-country team is responsible for working with partners to define requirements and possible solutions
 - Headquarters (State, USAID, HHS) can assist with strategic planning
- Countries submit their plans through the country operational planning process
- Requests for funding are reviewed by OGAC
- Countries then do or do not receive funds to proceed
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation



Considerations During Reviews

- Does the proposed activity address a critical need?
- Does the proposal recognize the complexity of the national situation?
- Are the results being promised likely to be achieved?
- Do the activities build up or on the general HMIS?
 - Are the consistent with the national strategy?
- Are the technologies appropriate and sustainable?
- Is there a well defined implementation plan?
 - Is there an appropriate level of monitoring and evaluation?
 - Are the well-defined decision criteria for moving forward?
- How will the activity be supported over the longer term?
- Do the proposals meet the federal acquisition regulations?



So How Do I Engage?

- Identify with in-country partners whose work will benefit from ICT.
 - Many may already be using technology
- Work with the national and government sectors to identify opportunities for pilot projects and for scaling up existing activities.
- Look for opportunities to build beyond simply HIV/AIDS.

Questions?

