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 Maternal and Child
Survival Program

Supporting Communities to use Health Data: A Resource Package

Introduction

- Community-based interventions are gaining recognition for their contribution to improved RMNCH
- During the 2017 Institutionalizing Community Health Conference (IHC), countries expressed the need for comprehensive resources, tools and guidelines on community-level RMNCH data use. The need was reiterated later that same year at a workshop in South Africa, Improving Routine Data for Child Health in National Health Information Systems.
- Working group at Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) developed *Supporting Communities to use Health Data: A Resource Package* to address this need
 - With input and review by the Health Data Collaborative Community Data subgroup

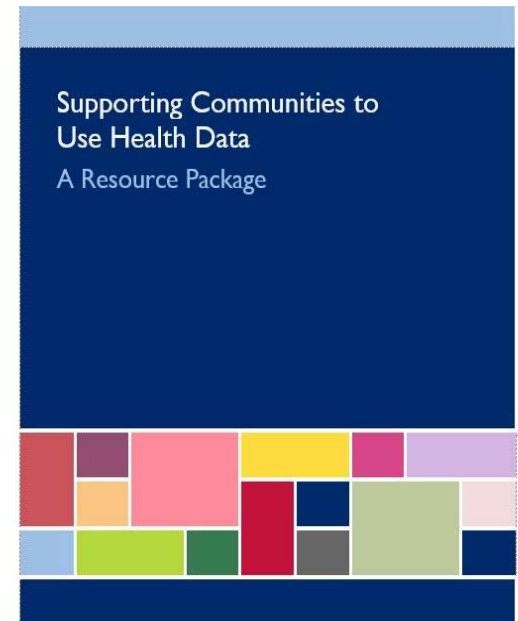
Resource Package Objectives and Audience

Objectives:

- To provide guidance on the core elements and steps to strengthen communities' capacity to collect, analyze and use RMNCH data for action
- To provide links to existing tools and resources pertaining to data use at the community level, including data analysis, interpretation and decision-making

Audiences:

- Program managers and organizations (governmental, non-governmental, community-based, faith-based, etc.) that work with communities to strengthen their capacity to collect, analyze, and use data at the community level



www.mcsprogram.org

The complete package can be found here:
www.mcsprogram.org/resource/supporting-communities-to-use-health-data/

Scope

- **Uses the following definition of data use at the community level:**
 - Data and information (formal and informal) regularly expected, analyzed, interpreted, and used for decision making by community actors to monitor and manage performance, track service quality and use, identify community needs, health status, practices, and trends, and ensure shared accountability
- **Focuses on strengthening use of data by community actors**
- **Does not include:**
 - Guidance for higher levels (facility-based health workers or district managers)
 - Guidance for policy makers seeking to make community-based policies
 - Use of survey or census data collected by actors external to the community

Structure

- 33 pages with three annexes in format of “how-to” manual
- **5 Modules:**
 - **Module 1:** Engage data users and producers
 - **Module 2:** Conduct data assessments to improve data use at the community level
 - **Module 3:** Build and strengthen core competencies for data use
 - **Module 4:** Support communities to translate data into action
 - **Module 5:** Ensure systems and policies support sustained community data use

with community members are opportunities for further discussion about the production and use of data. In addition, supervision of CHWs affords further opportunities for users at other levels of the health system to discuss data use.

This module reviews different types of community stakeholders and the importance of engaging them in the community health information system by reviewing processes and providing templates for collaborative mapping and stakeholder engagement.

Module 2: Conduct Assessments for Improving Data Use at the Community Level

Assessing data needs as part of a larger, contextual assessment is critical for improving data use. Information needs may vary by type of stakeholder (e.g., community member, community leader, CHW). Thus, mapping available data and identifying information needs are key steps that inform data use efforts. Stakeholders must also identify and overcome barriers to data use to build effective system supports.

This module builds on the stakeholder engagement process to outline the importance of identifying stakeholders' information needs, provides guidance for prioritizing information needs, and identifies potential sources of data that will yield needed information and improve availability of data. Additionally, an initial assessment can identify common barriers to data use and opportunities to improve data use at the community level.

Module 3: Build and Strengthen Core Competencies for Data Use

Just because data exist does not mean that they are used—data availability does not equal use. Community-based programs may collect and report data. However, producing and using high-quality data requires competencies among data producers and users and systems supports. MEASURE Evaluation recommends implementing a team approach to build capacity for data use.²⁸

This module describes processes and tools for data collection, management, analysis, presentation, interpretation, and using data for action.

Module 4: Support Communities to Translate Data into Action

This module addresses the impact that community-level data can have—specifically, how these data and information products can be used to spur community action.

Module 5: Ensure Systems and Policies Support Sustained Data Use

To ensure the institutionalization of data demand and use, appropriate systems and policies must be put into place. This module describes how data management and supervision systems support community-level data use.

Module I: Engage Data Users and Producers

This module reviews different types of community stakeholders and the importance of engaging them in the community health information system (CHIS), by reviewing processes and providing templates for collaborative mapping and stakeholder engagement.

Stakeholder Analysis Matrix

Program issue: _____

Proposed activity: _____

Date: _____

Name of stakeholder organization, group or individual (National, regional or local)	Stakeholder description (Primary purpose, affiliation, funding)	Potential role in the issue or activity / Vested interest in the activity	Level of knowledge of the issue (Specific areas of expertise)	Level of commitment: Support or oppose the activity, to what extent, and why?	Available resources: Staff, volunteers, money, technology, information, influence	Constraints or Limitations: need funds to participate, lack of personnel, political or other barriers

Module 2: Conduct Assessments for Improving Data Use at the Community Level

This module builds on the stakeholder engagement process to outline the importance of identifying stakeholders' information needs; provides guidance for prioritizing information needs; and identifies potential sources of data that will yield needed information and improve availability of data. Additionally, an initial assessment can identify common barriers to data use and opportunities to improve data use at the community level.

Data Type	Definition	Examples of actions that can encourage community-level data use
Service delivery data; Data for logistics management tracking for commodity tracking and supply	Data collected on 1) health services sought and provided using registers, forms, digital health applications, wall charts, to include distribution of family planning commodities, childhood illnesses treated through <u>iCCM</u> , commodity stock management (if applicable); and 2) health promotion activities, such as the number of households visited to promote maternal and newborn health or number of educational sessions held about best sanitation practices	Simplify registers and consolidate forms, such as those used in My Village, My Home ⁴² and family health folders in Ethiopia ⁴³ Provide recurring coaching and supportive supervision on tools and approaches so CHWs are able to interpret findings and identify appropriate responses Tap into functional structures with authority to take action
Data for accountability	Data collected during community meetings, where stakeholders such as	Adapt tools that community users can use. These could include videography

Module 3: Build and Strengthen Core Competencies for Data Use

This module describes processes and tools for data collection, management, analysis, presentation, interpretation, and using data for action.

Figure 4: Example of Community bulletin board, Ethiopia, Save the Children

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1		12	7	8	7	34
2		37	18	41	24	120
3		3	1	2	2	8
4		37	18	41	24	120

Module 4: Support Communities to Translate Data into Action

This module addresses the ***impact that community-level data can have*** – specifically, how these data and information products can be used to spur community action.

Community	Problem Addressed	Community Analysis	Decision
A	During August-November, CHW attrition increased, and 10% of children weighed showed inadequate weight gain.	The economic situation in the area is promoting external migration. In the community there is only one CHW in place. Some members of local health committees have also emigrated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Continue weight monitoring of children•One more CHW will be assigned•New community members will be elected for the health committees
B	During August-November, 7% of all children have had inadequate growth during two consecutive periods.	Children in these communities experienced an increased in diarrheal and ARI diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Encourage drinking boiled or chemically purified water in the homes•Refer children with danger signs to health facility•Train 5 more community volunteers on nutrition•Refer children with nutritional deficits to nutritional center

Module 5: Ensure Systems and Policies Support Sustained Data Use

This module describes how data management and supervision systems support community-level data use.

	National	Sub-National / Regional/ District	Health facility/ catchment communities
Indicators	Establish a set of indicators for tracking community level data use	Identify and integrate relevant indicators in to sub-national level information management systems	Identify the indicators that are of mutual interest at the community level
Processes	Ensure community level data utilization processes are captured in national M&E plans and are funded, including data flow	Address systems barriers by ensuring adequate financial, human and technical resources are provided. For example, financial or resource incentives	Establish a routine for data utilization processes (e.g. monthly community dialogue, data review workshops with community

Acknowledgements

A large team at MCSP was part of developing this resource package, and we are grateful for their contributions:

Heather Gardner

Ochiawunma Ibe

Lwendo Moonzwe

Kate Gilroy

Achille Kabore

Melanie Morrow

Reeti Hobson

Tanvi Monga

Steve Ollis

Debra Prosnitz

Emily Stammer

Andrea Surette

Jennifer Yourkavitch

We are also grateful for the expertise and contributions of members of the Health Data Collaborative:

Tariq Azim, MEASURE
Evaluation

Remy Mwamba, UNICEF

Guilhem Labadie,
UNICEF

Sarah Marks, Malaria
Consortium

Ana Djapovic Scholl,
USAID

Thank You!

For any questions on the Resource Package,

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Photo Credit: Kate Holt/MCSP

Upcoming MCSP Resources

- National Community Health Information Systems in Four African Countries: Descriptions and Lessons from the Field
- MCSP briefs on Community Health Contributions- Multi-Country Assessment: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, & Rwanda

Please visit the MCSP Resource page for additional resources
<https://www.mcsprogram.org/resources/>

For more information, please visit
www.mcsprogram.org

This presentation was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement AID-OAA-A-14-00028. The contents are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

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