Lead with Purpose: Reflections on measurement and monitoring of CRVS systems

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Purpose

• To share reflections on and propose new approach to the measurement and monitoring of CRVS systems

Outline

• Current Approaches
• The Measurement Muddle
• The need for standardization and harmonization
• A ‘Purpose-Driven’ approach
• Parting Thoughts
Past and present

- Previous rapid and comprehensive CRVS assessment tools (WHO/University of Queensland) [1]
- ANACoD for cause of death data quality since 2010
- Household Survey & Censuses
- Under Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative developed tools for diagnosis and recommended improvements
  - Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit [2]
  - CRVS Systems Improvement Framework [3]
  - Standard Baseline Assessment with annual updates
    - Including via publication of Annual Vital Statistics Reports based on UN Principles and Recommendations [5]
Taking stock of what we do have …

Currently
- Indicators from Data for Health resources
- SCORE
- Asia Pacific CRVS Decade
- ANACOD
- APAI-CRVS indicators

Plus
- Censuses
- Household surveys
• Consistent and comparable measures of CRVS system performance are broadly lacking in the field
  • In many countries working with the Data for Health Initiative, limited routine monitoring of CRVS performance or ability to set and monitor performance targets
  • No resource to aid in the establishment or improvement of monitoring CRVS system performance and the quality of data
  • Core indicators developed primarily for domestic use vary across countries
  • Basic indicators vary across global partners, placing extra burden on those responsible for reporting
Thoughts on a way forward
Government ownership, coordination, and leadership for long-term sustainable impact
The need for standardization and harmonization

• Standardization has benefits …
  • Provides countries with a go-to resource when developing monitoring systems
  • Enables countries to take advantage of best collective thinking about indicators, sources, possible frequency of collection, and potential or intended users and their use cases
  • Enables cross-country comparisons for further learning and improvement
• … and enables Harmonization
  • Can ideally reduce reporting burden and challenges of coordinating CRVS performance monitoring among global partners
Purpose driven measurement, monitoring, learning and improvement for CRVS

• Three purposes of measuring performance and data quality
  • Learning and improvement of CRVS system
  • Internal and external accountability
  • Ensuring highest quality vital statistics data possible

Planned, collection, analysis and synthesis of performance & data quality indicators

Time devoted to reflection and development of learning for improvement

Commitment made to implement change and improvements

Long-term sustainable improvements to CRVS


Figure based on: Exhibit 2, A Guide to Actionable Measurement [6]
How to make it tractable ...

• Start by assessing the data needs of performance and data quality indicator users
  • Primary intended users must be clearly identified and personally engaged at the beginning of planning
  • The development of the system must ensure intended uses by the primary intended users guide all other decisions made [7]

• Develop monitoring plan that maps necessary business processes to get from data sources for required indicators to use-case
  • Build in feedback loops to data producers
  • Build in periodic stakeholder-wide review and reflection on CRVS system performance and data quality
  • Commitment to action
### Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TACAIDS Goal/Target</th>
<th>Improve maternal health</th>
<th>Improve maternal health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Sector Performance Goal/Target</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll Back Malaria Goal/Target</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty and Human Development Report Indicators</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Poverty Reduction Strategy Goal/Target</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millennium Development Goal</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Maternal mortality ratio</td>
<td>Proportion of births taking place in health facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Sentinel Population</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Male (Poorest 25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male (Least Poor 25%)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (Poorest 25%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>24.4 36.3 12.0 49.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female (Least Poor 25%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>81.8 87.9 6.0 7.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Both (Poorest 25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Both (Least Poor 25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Both Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>55.5 64.0 8.5 15.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• The assessment and routine reassessment of CRVS performance and data quality is critical to long-term sustainable impact

• Basic tools and guidance exist but are lacking, leaving countries to ‘reinvent the wheel’ and leading to a measurement muddle

• Standardization and harmonization are a good first step
  • CRVS principle of “collect once and use many times”

• One way forward would be the development of an actionable, use and user-oriented CRVS performance and monitoring system
Thank you
References cited can be accessed at:

1. E.g., WHO EMRO, Comprehensive CRVS Assessments
2. Global Health Advocacy Incubator (Data for Health), CRVSID Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit
3. Vital Strategies (Data for Health Initiative), CRVS Systems Improvement Framework
5. UNSD, Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System