

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



Tanzania Health Data Collaborative

Communiqué on commitments to support One Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Health Sector 11-12 September 2017, Serena Hotel, Dar es Salaam

The Government of Tanzania is committed to efforts to improve the quality of health data for evidence-based decision making and to strengthen capacity to track progress towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. While Tanzania has taken major steps and made significant progress towards improving availability, access, analysis and use of health data, it recognizes the need for more coordinated and collaborative efforts of all stakeholders to unleash the full potential of its health information system. This will reduce fragmentation and duplication of efforts, improve the efficiency of investments and build confidence in the national health data system.

The value of reliable, timely disaggregated data and ambition to improve the efficiency in data investments is shared by all partners. In June 2015, the leaders of global health agencies and participants in the Summit on Measurement and Accountability for Results in Health endorsed the Health Measurement and Accountability Post-2015 Roadmap and Five Point Call to Action, identifying a set of priority actions and targets that aims at strengthening country data and accountability systems for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

To realize this ambition in Tanzania, the Government launched the Tanzania Health Data Collaborative in Dar es Salaam on the 11th September 2017. This is a collaboration of Government of Tanzania, represented by Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG); Health Sector Stakeholders; and Global Partners. The overall objectives of the launch were:

- to rally all stakeholders towards supporting a common monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and the country's prioritized plan;
- to strengthen in-country M&E coordination mechanisms as basis for a strong country-led information and accountability platform;
- to leverage technical and political support from partners and stakeholders at all levels to support the national M&E priorities; and
- to actively engage key players from other sectors in collaborative cross-sector efforts to strengthen the national platform for measurement and accountability.

“The Tanzania Health Data Collaborative will accelerate a series of joint priority actions to address gaps in our data and health information systems,” Permanent Secretary Dr. Mpoki Ulisubisya of the Ministry of Health said at the launch event. “I want to believe that through our collaborative effort, we will have ONE platform that will allow us to collect all the information we need, be it information on what we do for HIV/AIDS interventions, for tuberculosis, for malaria, for reproductive and child health, for maternal health, you name it.”

The launch was attended by 145 participants, representing the Government of Tanzania (including senior leadership, programme managers and staff of MOHCDGEC and PORALG; National Health Insurance Fund; National Bureau of Statistics; Tanzania eGovernment Agency; and the Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency), Health Sector Development Partners, Implementing Partners, Academic and Research institutions, Civil Society Organisations, Faith Based Organisations and Private Sector.

The Government’s leadership and strong commitment to the HDC was demonstrated by the participation of Permanent Secretary Dr. Mpoki Ulisubisya of MOHCDGEC; Dr Mohammed Ally Mohammed, the Acting Chief Medical Officer of MOHCDGEC; Dr. Anna Nswila, a representative of Deputy Permanent Secretary of PORALG; and various other leaders from MOHCDGEC and PORALG.

Following extensive consultations, the health sector leaders, practitioners and stakeholders identified the following six key priority areas to advance commitments to the One Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Health Sector in Tanzania. These priorities were selected from the M&E Strategy 2015-2020 (M&ESI II)¹, which is the M&E framework for HSSP IV; and the Tanzania Digital Health Roadmap 2017-2022². They were also informed by specific needs of M&E plans of disease-specific strategic plans, the Government Hospital Management Information System (GOT-HOMIS). Collective action and joint support for these priorities from the Government and partners will result in increased efficiencies and better data to monitor national health priorities. The selected priorities include:

- 1. Addressing fragmentation of M&E and data systems:** A strong governance and coordination mechanism is required to ensure all stakeholders adhere to the One M&E Framework.
- 2. Alignment of indicators and data collection processes:** Align indicators of programme-specific strategic plans with the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2015-2020 (HSSP IV)³ and harmonise data collection efforts.
- 3. Alignment of health facility assessments and surveys:** These include SARA, SPA, SDI, and Star Rating Assessments (BRN+SafeCare).
- 4. Joint and aligned investment in digital health information systems** (including digitization to move away with paper systems): Integrate information systems at service provider level and collect standardized data elements.

¹https://www.healthdatacollaborative.org/fileadmin/uploads/hdc/Documents/Country_documents/Tanzania_MESI_2015-2020_Strategy.pdf

²https://www.healthdatacollaborative.org/fileadmin/uploads/hdc/Documents/Country_documents/Tanzania_Data_Use_Partnership_Report.pdf

³https://www.healthdatacollaborative.org/fileadmin/uploads/hdc/Documents/Country_documents/Tanzania_HSSP_IV.pdf

5. **Strengthening capacity for analysis and use of data:** Increase access to and capacity for analysis and use at all levels and all key players.
6. **Dissemination and access:** Improve access to national health information and data (routine data, surveys, research publications, reports).

Declaration of Commitment

We, the stakeholders here gathered, under the firm leadership of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), hereby declare:

- **We confirm** our strong support to Government efforts to strengthen health data systems, policies and governance, based on the priorities outlined by the Tanzania Development Vision 2025, Five Year Development Plan, the National Health Policy, the Health Sector Strategic Plan IV, and other national and sector guidance documents.
- **We recognize** the efforts of the Government to identify the priorities, gaps, and potential overlaps to implement interventions to improve data quality and use to monitor the national health priorities and commitments, and to ensure increased efficiencies and smart investments in data systems.
- **We recognize** that new technologies contribute to improving the performance of health systems and the collection, analysis, use and dissemination of data. These opportunities should be harnessed and integrated into current efforts to strengthen the health information system.
- **We recognize** the role of the Government through the MOHCDGEC and PORALG to work with partners and other stakeholders to define an adequate data governance structure for the health sector, to ensure adequate implementation of current policies and strategies such as the MESI 2015-2020 and the Digital Health Investment Roadmap 2017-2023, among others. The National Bureau of Statistics will host a coordinating function to integrate these efforts.
- **We are guided by the principles** captured in the Five Point Call to Action and the principles outlined by the Summit on Measurement and Accountability for Results in Health, being cognizant that regular measurement of results with a focus on equity is essential for the progressive realization of Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **We are committed** to promoting dialogue and co-operation with Government, Ministries, Departments and other Agencies to ensure the goals and vision of this declaration are achieved.
- **We pledge** to provide, where appropriate, technical and/or financial resources to realize this vision.

Further to the commitments above, the conference adopted a resolution to review progress on implementing the priority actions and to monitor stakeholders' commitments annually (during the Joint Annual Health Sector Review), with the first such review opportunity being the presentation of the priorities and commitments in the forthcoming Joint Annual Health Sector Review to be held in October or November 2017.

The Government of Tanzania and partners endorsed these declarations made under the Tanzania Health Data Collaborative launch on this 12th day of September 2017 as follows:

For MOHCDGEC

Dr. Mpoki Ulisubisya

For PORALG

Dr. Zainabu Chaula

For Development Partners in Health

Ms Norzin Grigoleit-Dagyab

For Health Data Collaborative Secretariat

Dr. Jordan Tappero

For Civil Society

Mr. Irenei Kiria