DATA, ANALYTICS & DELIVERY FOR IMPACT

IN FOCUS: 2021

World Health Organization
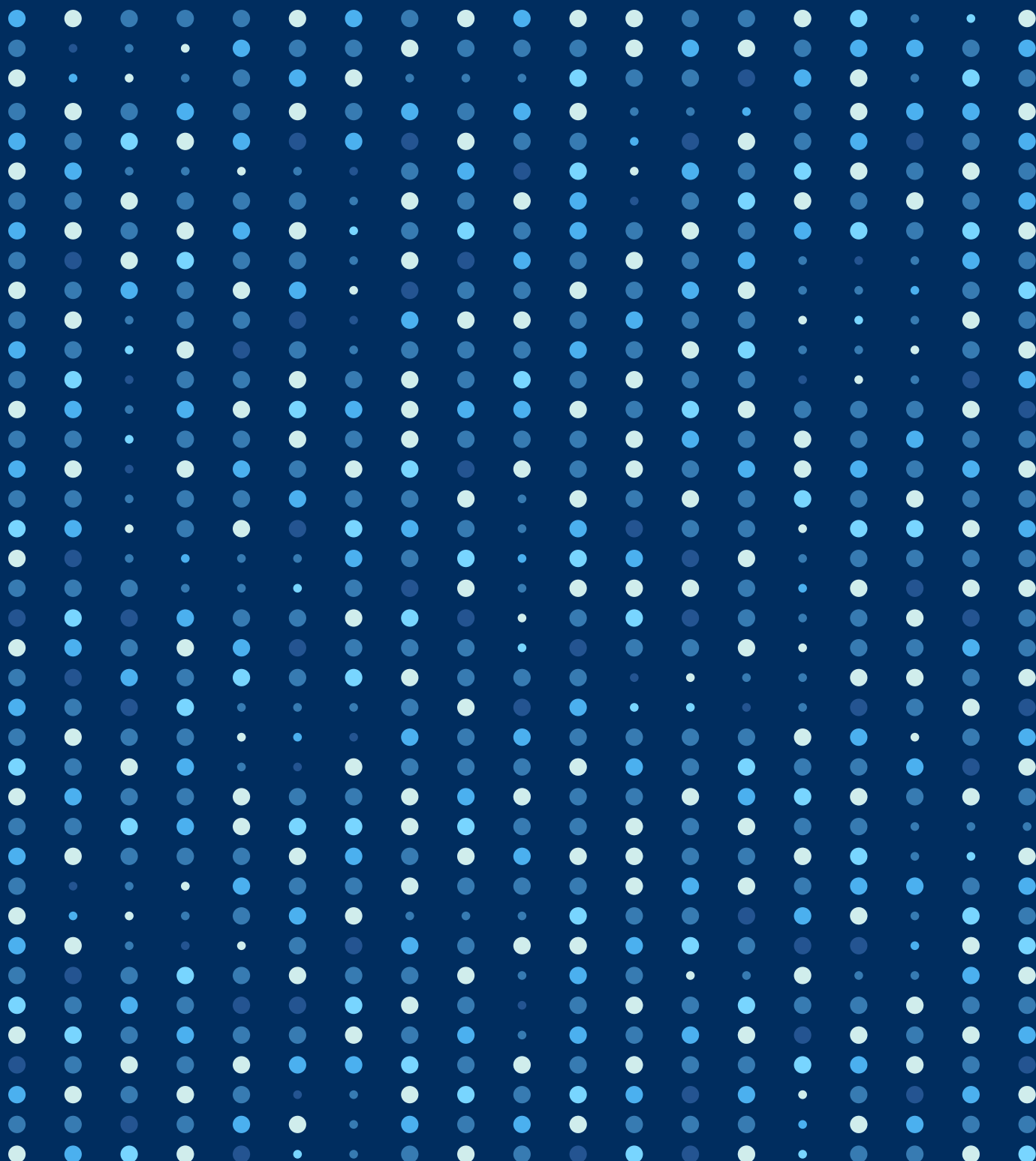
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Letter from the Director-General

Achieving WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13) and its "Triple Billion" targets as well as the health-related SDGs would be impossible without robust data and science. As part of WHO's transformation agenda, the Division of Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact was established to improve measurement, focus on results and deliver impact. Since its creation, and amid historic challenges, the Division has laid a strong foundation for health information systems strengthening, data governance and country capacity-building that will accelerate progress across all levels of the Organization and in the communities we serve.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored this need and the importance of strong health information systems, but it has also shone a light on persistent data gaps and fragmentation that must be urgently addressed.

This progress update on data and delivery highlights key achievements and offers an exciting glimpse into the future. It also gratefully acknowledges the many collaborating centres and partners that are working with us to build sustained data and analytical capacities that support evidence-based policy dialogue and strategic health interventions.

By connecting data, analytics and delivery we will create a new powerhouse for country-focused health information that makes a measurable difference to lives and livelihoods, addresses inequalities and delivers measurable health impacts for all.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General, World Health Organization

Overview

WHO is fulfilling its transformation to a modern data-driven organisation enabled by the Division of Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact. We focus on establishing data governance and standards, monitoring population health trends, strengthening country capacity and leveraging partnerships to collect, analyse and use data to deliver on WHO's Triple Billion targets and accelerate progress towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

We know that achieving these common global goals will be impossible without data and science. As Dr Tedros says, "How can we make progress, if we cannot measure it?". Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of timely, reliable, and actionable data. It has also highlighted the long-standing data gaps and inequalities that must be urgently addressed if we are to get back on track.

You can read more about our plans to strengthen health information systems and deliver the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in two papers that were presented and discussed at the World Health Assembly.

This 'In Focus: 2021' summary outlines the strategic direction and progress in strengthening country health information systems, making data available as a global public good, delivering a measurable impact and using data to drive public health policy.

We cannot do this alone. Together with our regional and country offices, Member States and partners we are uniting to ensure every country has the capacity to meet national and subnational priorities. By connecting data, analytics and delivery, we will strengthen our support for country-focused health information that makes a measurable difference to the lives and livelihoods of billions of people, everywhere.
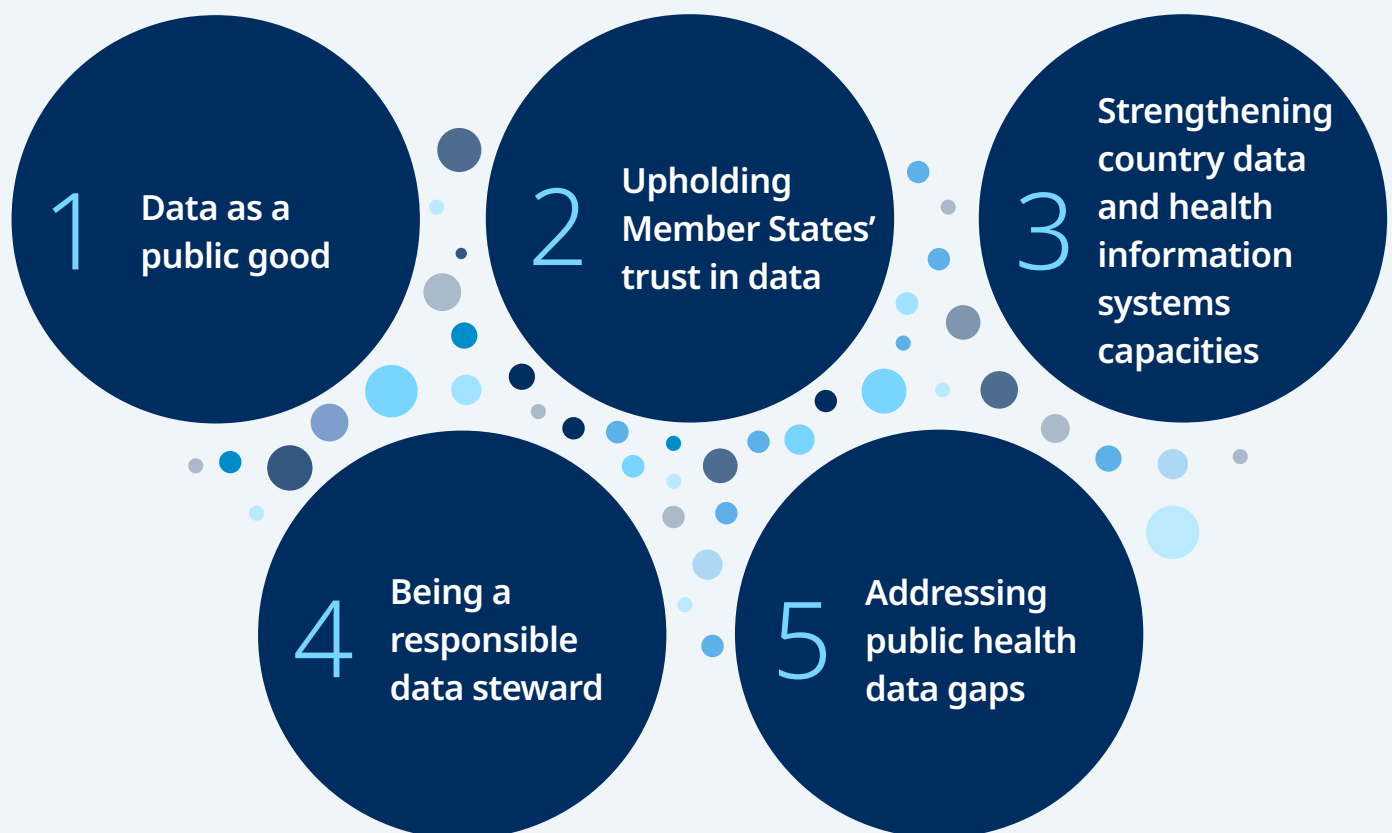
Dr Samira Asma
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Division of Data, Analytics and Delivery for Impact

September 2021

A trusted source for global health data

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As the custodian of global health data, WHO must develop, uphold and ensure high global standards of data collection, processing, synthesis and analysis. This normative role of WHO is essential to ensuring the timeliness, reliability and validity of measurements, ensuring comparability of data and allowing the world to track trends, progress and impact.

5 Data Principles govern our work:

1 Data as a public good

2 Upholding Member States' trust in data

3 Strengthening country data and health information systems capacities

4 Being a responsible data steward

5 Addressing public health data gaps

Key WHO resources include the WHO's Data Sharing Policies, the UN Joint Statement on Data Protection and Privacy in the COVID-19 Response, and GATHER (Guidelines for Accurate and Transparent Health Estimates Reporting).

WHO is committed to improving data governance by reducing fragmentation, increasing efficiencies, and providing policy recommendations and best practices through its Data Hub and Spoke Collaborative and Data Governance Committee.

The recent Health Data Governance Summit brought together experts to review best practices in data governance, sharing and use and also to build high-level political commitment for health data as a global public good.
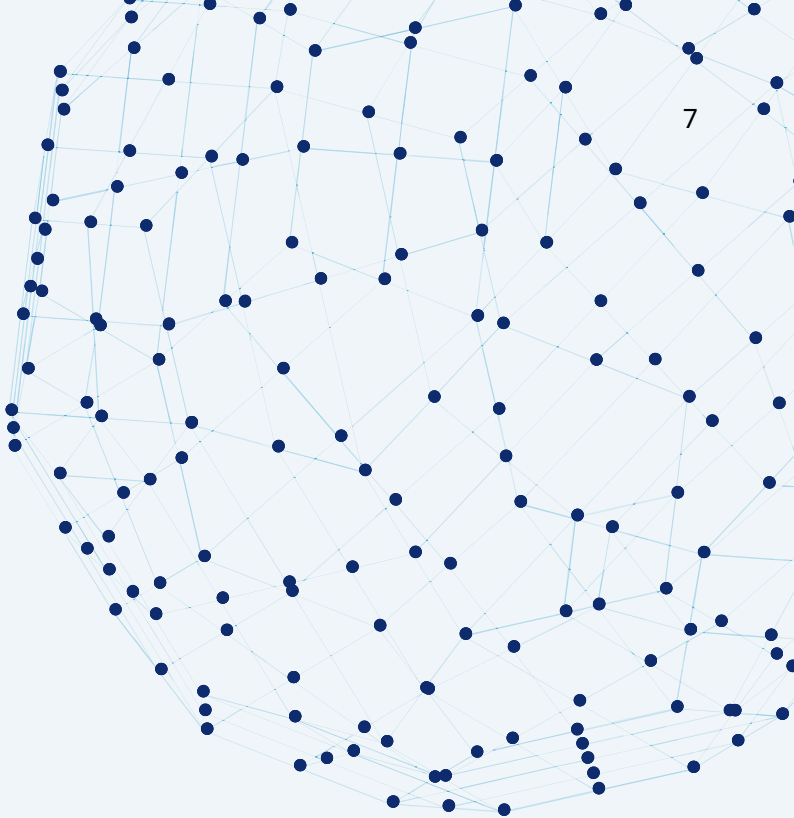
The World Health Data Hub

The Hub is an interactive digital destination and trusted source for global health data, fulfilling WHO's commitment to provide complete, transparent and open data as a public good.

It provides easy access to view and download health data sets using powerful visualization tools to better understand trends, patterns and connections.

It allows countries to securely upload and review their data and provides a method of exchange and consultation among countries and WHO.

The World Health Data Hub brings together all existing WHO data assets into a data lake, including the Global Health Observatory, the Triple Billion Dashboard, the Health Equity Monitor, the Mortality Database and more. The Hub offers intelligence insights, tools for predictive analysis, and visualizations and is developed with key technology partners Microsoft and Avanade offering their pro bono expertise.

## WHO Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Centre for Health

The newly established GIS Centre for Health, with pro bono support from Esri, enhances WHO's capabilities in presenting spatial data that in turn better supports improved public health planning and real-time decision making.

The global health applications of GIS are numerous and include:
• Finding disease clusters and possible causes
• Working with COVAX to support equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution
• Determining if an area is being served adequately by health services
• Improving deployment of emergency services

By connecting maps, data and people the WHO GIS Center for Health supports countries and partners in making informed public health decisions faster and is working to extend the reach of geospatial information across the organization.
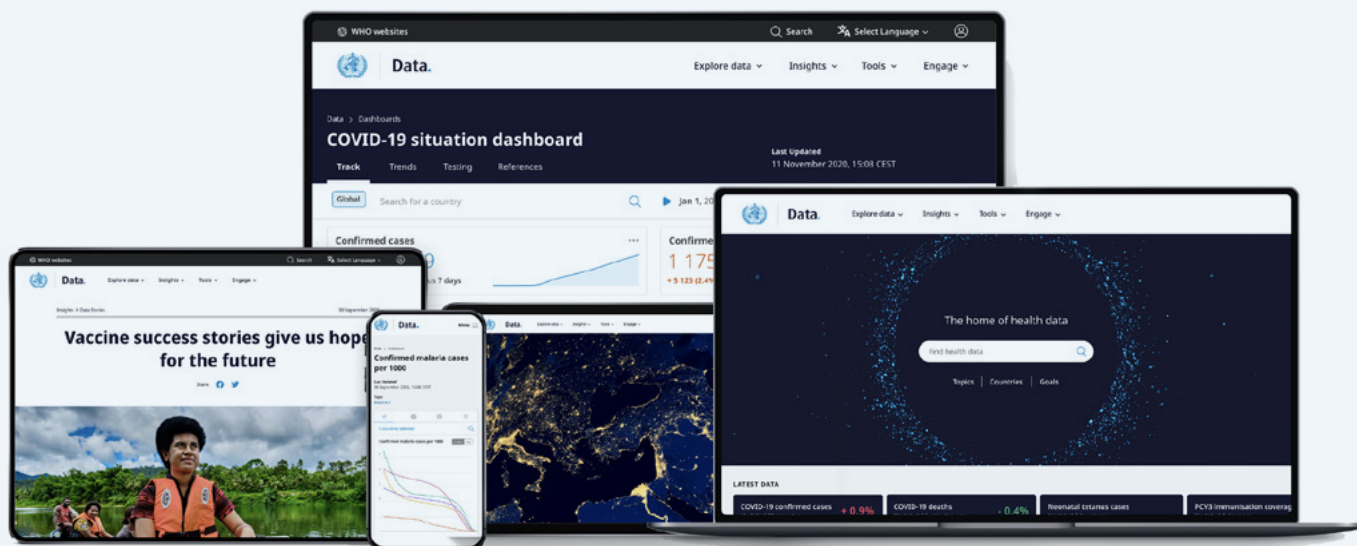
Family of International Classification

Data standards provide a common language for medical terminology and support interoperability between governments, the scientific community, and data users. The Family of International Classification (FIC) includes the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI), and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). The International Classification of Diseases, eleventh edition (ICD-11) provides 17 000 diagnostic categories, over 130 000 medical diagnostic index terms, and is usable online or offline. ICD-11 is fully digitalized and is being implemented in select countries with an aim to scale more widely by 2022.

World Health Statistics Report

The World Health Statistics Report is WHO's annual 'state of the world's health' assessment, including the most recent available data on health and health-related indicators for its 194 Member States. The 2021 edition features the latest data for more than 50 health-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and Triple Billion target indicators. This year's report includes preliminary estimates for global excess deaths attributable to COVID-19 for 2020, the impact of COVID-19 on population health, and the state of global and regional health trends from 2000-2019. It also focuses on the persistent health inequalities and data gaps that have been accentuated by the pandemic, with a call to urgently invest in health

Global Health Estimates

WHO's Global Health Estimates provide the latest available data on death and disability globally, by region and country, age, sex and cause from 2000-2019. These estimates provide key insights on mortality and morbidity trends including leading causes of death to support informed decision-making on health policy and resource allocation.

The next Global Health Estimates will be released at the end of the year and will include more details on the impact of COVID-19 on population health.

Monitoring Health Inequalities

Monitoring health inequalities is vital for tracking progress towards Universal Health Coverage and ensuring no one is left behind in meeting the health SDGs and Triple Billion targets. Tools to build country capacity to measure and report on health inequalities include The Health Equity Monitor database, Health Equity Assessment Toolkit (HEAT or HEAT Plus) software, the health inequality monitoring handbook, state of inequality reports, and step-by-step manuals on national health inequality monitoring and inequality monitoring in immunization. In addition, statistical codes for data disaggregation and a compendium of indicator definitions support equity analysis and monitoring efforts.