Move it:

Report on Monitoring of Vital Events using Information Technology

World Health Organization

HISP INDIA · OPEN SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

HMN

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ALPHA	Analysing Longitudinal Population-based HIV/AIDS data in Africa
ART	antiretroviral therapy
BCRS	Barangay Civil Registration System
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COD	cause of death
CRVS	civil registration and vital statistics
DFID	Department for International Development
DPHI	Department of Planning and Health Information
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
HDSS	Health Demographic Surveillance System
HIS	health information system
HISP	Health Information Systems Programme
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HMN	Health Metrics Network
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ICT	information and communication technology
IMRSS	Indonesian Mortality Registration System Strengthening
INDEPTH	International Network for the Demographic Evaluation of Populations and Their Health
IT	information technology
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LGU	Local Government Unit
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MNCH	maternal, newborn and child health
MOVE	monitoring of vital events
MOVE IT	monitoring of vital events using information technology
MRC	Medical Research Council
NSO	National Statistical Office
SIS-ROH	Sistema de Informmacao de Saude – Registo Obitois Hospitalares
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VA	verbal autopsy
WHO	World Health Organization
WOMB	Watching Over Mothers and Babies

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2008–2009, the Health Metrics Network (HMN) funded a set of projects from different countries, with the common theme of applying the innovative use of information technologies (ITs) to the strengthening of systems for tracking vital events. These projects were called "MOVE IT" (Monitoring of Vital Events using Information Technology). At the end of the project period, this report makes a macro-assessment of the experience, with a view to discerning a synthesis of what has been learned across the projects.

The report is not an account of how and whether the individual MOVE IT project goals were met. Rather, it is an analysis based on a three-dimensional perspective, including *innovation*, *scaling* and *learning* and the role of information and communication technology (ICT) in the facilitation or otherwise of these processes. Such an analysis helps to understand what works and what does not work, and what can be done to make similar initiatives more effective in the future. In this report, *innovation* is understood as the capacity to carry out new tasks using technological interventions, or using new technology to deal with ongoing problems that have previously been difficult to solve using existing means and technologies. A key aspect related to innovation is the local institutional participation in learning and for building capacity to take innovations forward. *Learning* is understood as the new insights developed in relation to the problem and academic discipline under study, or insights developed through the combination of learning from two or more areas, such as public health and informatics. *Scaling* is understood as the capacity of the intervention to be expanded across geographical areas, functional domains, user groups and uses.

The analysis of the MOVE IT projects in this report demonstrate strong interlinkages between the different dimensions, and from these some key principles are inferred: (a) a strong programme logic should drive the system-strengthening efforts, rather than the fact that a new technology is now available; (b) to the extent possible, and to get scaling effects, it is important to build on something that already exists, and which the systems are supporting; and (c) scaling effects need to be maximized in order to strengthen and expand the system of innovation.