



GLOBAL MEASUREMENT UPDATE



Analysis and Use of Health Facility Data: Guidance for Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health Programme Managers

Routine health data are critically important for effective decision-making to improve the quality of health care. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF recently released guidance on the analysis and use of health facility data for maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (MNCAH)¹. To accompany this guidance, WHO developed a package of capacity strengthening materials for use in workshops and other settings. These materials are intended for use by MNCAH managers at all levels of the health system as well as by partner organizations working to support the health system.



WHAT IS IN THE GUIDANCE AND ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS?

The guidance describes a catalogue of indicators for monitoring across the MNCAH continuum using routine health information system (RHIS) data. These indicators include contacts with health facilities across MNCAH; content of care during the antenatal, childbirth and postnatal periods; specific interventions during childhood and adolescence; and institutional MNCAH mortality (including stillbirths).

<p>Guidance document</p> 	<p>Assists program managers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become familiar with a catalogue of recommended MNCAH indicators that can be reported through national RHIS and used for decision-making, including recommended metadata (e.g., definitions, numerators, denominators). • Conduct basic analyses of these indicators for MNCAH program monitoring. • Interpret visualizations of these indicators for MNCAH program management. <p>Important features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum set of 15 recommended MNCAH indicators for routine program monitoring, selected through a consultative process. • Examples of ways to visualize and analyze indicators. • Considerations for interpreting and using indicators in decision-making. • An annex on data quality considerations and interpreting routine data through a quality lens.
<p>Capacity strengthening materials</p> 	<p>Assists program managers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce MNCAH indicators for routine reporting through RHIS. • Review concepts and methods used to assess the quality and analysis of RHIS broadly, and specifically for MNCAH. • Provide exercises to strengthen the capacity of MNCAH managers to use data for decision-making. <p>Materials include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation slide decks. • Companion exercise booklet and country RHIS MNCAH indicator mapping template. • Facilitator guide linked to exercise booklet.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THESE RESOURCES?

As a module of the [WHO Toolkit for Routine Health Information Systems Data](#), the guidance and accompanying materials support data use. The guidance presents a catalogue of recommended MNCAH indicators that can be compared to what is currently reported through national systems. The provided indicator mapping template can help to identify relevant and priority indicators for a setting, allowing for decisions on whether and how they could be incorporated into national health management information systems.

The materials provide guidance on overall data analysis and quality. Their use can strengthen the whole health information system broadly as well as specifically for MNCAH. These data can also be used alongside other data to inform decision-making, a principle reinforced in the capacity-strengthening materials. Use of routine health information for decision-making can also increase the quality of those data over time.

WHO SHOULD USE THESE RESOURCES?

- **NATIONAL POLICYMAKERS AND HEALTH MANAGERS** who work on MNCAH programs can use these materials to monitor and evaluate a set of recommended indicators from their RHIS to inform strategic and operational plans through improved data use for decision-making at national and subnational levels. The materials support strengthening data visualization and analysis to inform decision-making.
- **DONORS AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**, such as those working in the MOMENTUM suite, can use the guidance and training materials to support MNCAH programs in improving data use for decision-making. The core set of indicators can also be used to monitor and track progress toward project goals and objectives that can inform project planning and resource allocation.
- **ACADEMIC PARTNERS, RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS, AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS** can support data use and analysis as well as conduct implementation research to better understand factors affecting data availability, quality, and use.

This factsheet was developed with the WHO Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing.

References

1. World Health Organization. *Analysis and Use of Health Facility Data: Guidance for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Programme Managers*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2023.

More Information

[Guidance document and accompanying materials](#)

[Webinar from the Quality of Care Network](#)

For queries, contact mncahdata@who.int.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  @USAID_MOMENTUM  @USAIDMOMENTUM  USAID MOMENTUM

MOMENTUM Knowledge Accelerator is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the MOMENTUM suite of awards and implemented by Population Reference Bureau with partners JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. and Ariadne Labs under cooperative agreement #7200AA20CA00003. For more information about MOMENTUM, visit <https://usaidmomentum.org/>. The contents of this fact sheet are the sole responsibility of Population Reference Bureau and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.