

Immunization Data: Evidence for Action (IDEA)

Connecting the immunization community to insights to improve data quality and use

Timely, high-quality data is essential to improve immunization outcomes. The IDEA review is a global synthesis of existing evidence that helps build a common understanding of what works to improve immunization data quality and use, why it works, and where more investment is needed. The IDEA review gives the sharpest look yet at how to improve the use of data in immunization programs.

For more information, contact: digitalhealth@path.org

Top IDEA Findings for Policymakers



INTERCONNECTED STRATEGIES GET BETTER RESULTS

Immunization data use improves when programs use a comprehensive set of interconnected and mutually reinforcing strategies that address barriers. Successful packages include strategies that address skill and capacity building, behavior change management, user-centered design principles, and long-term resource commitments.



DATA USE LEADS TO BETTER DATA

The relationship between data quality and its use is dynamic and cyclical – one informs and inspires the other. The more data is used, the more likely its quality improves, and as data quality improves, health care workers are more confident about using it to guide their actions.



SYSTEMIZING DATA USE LEADS TO LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Data use becomes an integral part of decision-making when it's built into processes at all levels of the health system. Interventions are more likely to be successful long term if they institutionalize data use through dedicated staff positions for data management, routine data review meetings, and training and guidelines for front-line staff.



HMIS AND LMIS INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY DATA





Digital systems such as health management information systems (HMIS) and computerized logistics management information systems (LMIS) have made higher-quality data more available to decision makers in real time. And even greater gains are achieved when digital systems are paired with other activities that reinforce data use.



DIGITAL SYSTEMS SHOW PROMISE, BUT BARRIERS STILL EXIST

The transition from paper to digital systems across all levels of the health system has made higher-quality data more available to decision-makers, but has not automatically translated into greater data use. There is more success at the district level or higher because of fewer operational challenges than at the facility level. This finding shows the need for a phased approach – to make sure data use infrastructure, human resource capacity and skill building are in place before a full digital transition.

CHECKLIST OF ACTIONS TO SUPPORT DATA USE

Theory of Change Data Use Actions	 How to improve data use at the HEALTH FACILITY LEVEL?	 How to improve data use at the HEALTH DISTRICT LEVEL?	 How to improve data use at the NATIONAL LEVEL?
 Policymakers and Multilaterals	<p>Cross-cutting actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The intervention aligns with national guidelines on processes and procedures for data collection, analysis, and use by health care workers. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Health facilities are equipped with sufficient human resources—including dedicated staff where feasible—to perform tasks associated with data collection, management, and analysis. □ Front-line health worker training curricula focuses on training staff to use routine service delivery data for decision-making and problem solving and shifts perceptions away from data serving the sole purpose of reporting up through the system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Tools that organize data into meaningful information are implemented with complementary strategies for discussing data analyses and determining actions to be taken. □ Strategies are implemented to improve the quality of supportive supervision to focus on improving data use skills and practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ National guidelines contain well-defined processes and procedures for data collection, analysis, and use by health care workers across all levels of the health system. □ National guidelines include clear guidance on various types of decision-making informed by data, as well as guidelines for how health workers are expected to use data in various scenarios.



The IDEA steering committee includes WHO, CDC, UNICEF, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; as well as country representatives from both the BID Learning Network and Improving Data Quality for Immunizations project core countries.