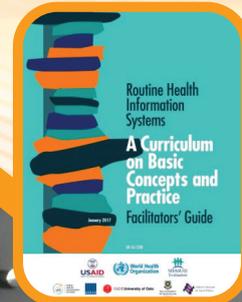
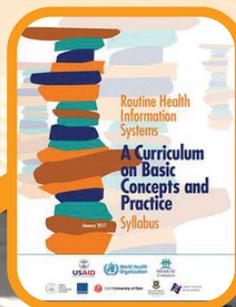


PHFI's engagement in Strengthening Health Information System

Capacity Statement

March 2023

www.phfi.org



About PHFI

The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) is a public-private initiative that has collaboratively evolved through consultations with multiple constituencies including Indian and international academia, state and central governments, multi & bilateral agencies and civil society groups. PHFI is a response to redress the limited institutional capacity in India for strengthening training, research, and policy development in the area of Public Health. Our vision is to strengthen India's public health institutional and systems capability and provide knowledge to achieve better health outcomes for all. PHFI's mission is to develop the public health workforce and set standards; advance public health research and technology and strengthen knowledge application and evidence-informed public health practice and policy. PHFI has established a network of five Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPHS) at Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Delhi, Bhubaneswar, and Shillong. We also operate an ancillary centre in partnership with the Government of Karnataka at Bangalore since 2012. These institutes help PHFI in translating its mission of developing and strengthening the capacity of the public health workforce through education, training, and research and setting standards in public health education.

Health Information System

The foundation of good decision-making in health is based on an efficient and reliable health information system (HIS). HIS are essential for the planning and implementation of health programs, good governance, healthcare service delivery, monitoring and evaluation of programs, financing, human resource management, and capacity-building related to health, etc. Data collection, compilation, analysis, and interpretation for use by relevant stakeholders are the core activities of a health information system. Over the years, there has been increasing global recognition of the important role of HIS in shaping the work of health systems. With the introduction of the 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is an urgent need for all countries to generate sufficient good-quality data at various levels routinely, to inform national and international-level planning and management.

Health system performance depends on the production and use of quality health data and information. Routine health information systems (RHIS) are defined as systems that provide information at regular intervals of a year or less to meet predictable information needs. RHIS comprises data collected at regular intervals at public, private, and community-level health facilities and institutions for a comprehensive picture of the health status, health services, and health resources at national and subnational levels. Most of the data are gathered by healthcare providers as they go about their work, by supervisors, and through routine health facility surveys. The sources of those data are generally individual health records, records of services delivered, and resource health records. However, this vital building block of the health systems is weak and poorly functional in most developing countries to provide information support.

PHFI has been actively engaging in providing technical support to WHO-SEARO, MEASURE Evaluation and also collaborated with Health Data Collaborative and other organizations in the HIS strengthening efforts.

Strong health systems are central to achieving better health outcomes, and strong health information systems are the backbone of strong health systems

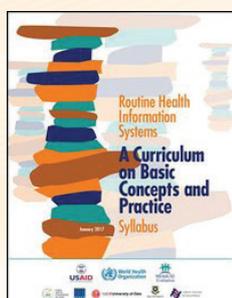
PHFI's engagement in Health Information System strengthening

Name of the Project	Year	Donor	Short Description
Developing Innovative Methods To Enhance the Utility of the Health Information System in India	2012-2015	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)	This project provided major methodological advances in analyzing the diverse range of population health databases in India - to better understand the estimation of disease burden trends, the determinants of disease burden, and the impact of major health interventions on population health status - through the application of advanced statistical methods and holistic interpretation of findings. This research was important for better utilization of the rich and increasing large-scale health data from various sources in India.
Assessment of the Performance of Routine Health Information System in the state of Uttarakhand	2014	MEASURE Evaluation	<p>PHFI and MEASURE Evaluation, based at the Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA), partnered to strengthen the capacity of PHFI to conduct M&E training, provide technical assistance and carry out research activities. Under this agreement, MEASURE Evaluation facilitated PHFI's efforts to assess the performance of RHIS in Uttarakhand in India through the application of Performance of Routine Information System Management (PRISM) tools.</p> <p>The first phase was to study the performance of RHIS in selected health facilities in Uttarakhand. This assessment was done by using the PRISM tools. The Framework defines the various components of the RHIS and their linkages to produce better quality data and continuous use of information, leading to better health system performance and, consequently, better health outcomes.</p> <p>The PRISM framework asserts that RHIS performance (better quality data and continuous use of information) is a function of better RHIS processes and their behavioural, technical, and organizational determinants.</p>
Data usage workshops in Haryana	2014-2015	State Govt. of Haryana	PHFI collaborated with State Government of Haryana to train government health officials across various districts of Haryana in the use of routine health data. During this workshop, the RHIS portals being run by the State Govt. were used for demonstration purpose. This allowed the officials to familiarize themselves with their own data from the perspective of data analyses and use for effective programmatic planning, implementation and evaluation.
Assessment of an ongoing intervention to promote data utilization among health professionals and its effect on overall improvement in the performance of the system	2015-2018	WHO	Under the National Rural Health Mission, launched in 2005 now National Health Mission, (NHM), there is a concerted effort by the government to facilitate the use of routine data to enhance evidence-based decision-making through the effective use of available resources given the social, cultural and economic constraints. One of the key functions of the NHM is to accelerate the efforts of the health management information system (HMIS). One of the major constraints to data use is the lack of training and skill to handle and analyze data. The study began with a pilot across 3-4 districts of Haryana wherein a 2 day orientation programme in data management and basic statistical skills was conducted with regular follow-up sessions (including supportive supervision to answer specific questions using available health databases) to motivate and promote data use by health facility managers and in-charges. This was subsequently scaled up to all the other districts in Haryana in the second phase. This was a collaborative effort between IIPH-Delhi and the NHM, Haryana.

Name of the Project	Year	Donor	Short Description
Planning Grant for South and Southeast Asian Routine Health Information (SASA RHIS) Network	2015-16	WHO	PHFI with technical support from MEASURE Evaluation established a partnership with World Health Organization (WHO), SEARO for launching a new South and Southeast Asian RHIS Network associated with the Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN). PHFI and WHO-SEARO designed and aligned the RHIS Network with AeHIN. A subgroup on RHIS strengthening was created as part of the AeHIN network. Discussions and decisions around the idea of establishing such a subgroup were held during a special session at the AeHIN 4th General Meeting. The main focus of this network was to strengthen governments to work with routine information in health planning, management, implementation and policy making. Major activities conducted were: 1. Development of a regional database for potential AeHIN countries. 2. Drafting a concept note for SASA RHIS as a subgroup of AeHIN. 3. Organizing and presenting the founding session for launch of network.
RHIS Basic Concepts and Practice – pilot testing workshop	2016	MEASURE Evaluation	In response to global demand for RHIS strengthening in low- and middle-income countries, a global team of experts led by MEASURE Evaluation, WHO SEARO, and PHFI organized and conducted a comprehensive two-week RHIS Course including basic RHIS concepts and practices. This RHIS curriculum was pilot tested at PHFI in Gurgaon, Haryana from June 6 to June 17, 2016. The facilitators were experts from the MEASURE Evaluation and faculty members of PHFI. The course aimed to enhance the capacity of participants to conceptualize, design, develop, govern, and manage RHIS and use the information generated to improve public health practice and service delivery. The feedback received during the pilot testing was used to revise the RHIS curriculum and finalize it. This pilot testing workshop facilitated the capacity-building of PHFI faculty members, who've since been using the RHIS: A Curriculum on Basic Concepts and Practice for training workshops as well as students of regular Masters of Public Health (MPH) at IIPH -Delhi, PHFI.
Piloting PRISM Tools in India	2016	MEASURE Evaluation	The aim of the project was to measure the RHIS performance of Punjab State and to inform the revision of PRISM Tools and Methodology. Its objectives were - to assess the accuracy, timeliness and completeness of the State -level RHIS; to identify health information system mechanisms and management strategies to improve the system in order to generate quality data for decision-making and to document the lessons learned from the application of the revised PRISM Tools and guidelines as an input to finalizing the updated PRISM Tools.
Routine Data Quality Assessment (RDQA) Workshop, Nagarkot, Nepal	2016	MEASURE Evaluation	The workshop was designed for selected officials of the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), implementing partners, and local organization staff who formed a core group of local data quality experts and was organized in collaboration with MoHP. The objectives were to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of participants on the importance of having quality data to better inform decisions, planning, and policies • Instill a detailed understanding of the data quality procedures among all participants • Train attendees in the use of the RDQA Tool for monitoring the quality of data from the various information systems • Implement the RDQA process
RHIS module MPH program	2017	PHFI	PHFI institutionalized and customized the RHIS curriculum as part of its Master of Public Health (MPH) program. PHFI adapted the standardized curriculum to serve as a two-week module for its MPH students, as part of the Health Systems track in the second year of the program. This module was piloted at the commencement of the MPH program in October 2017 and taught by PHFI faculty who participated in the RHIS curriculum piloted in 2016.

Name of the Project	Year	Donor	Short Description
AeHIN RHIS focus group activity	2018	WHO - SEARO MEASURE Evaluation	PHFI provided Secretariat support for the Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN) RHIS Focus Group activity to implement the Focus Group's Action Plan. Its functions involved catalysing activities relating to the three main themes of the Focus Group - capacity building, advocacy & knowledge management - for RHIS among AeHIN members and the South East Asia Region. During this partnership, a core team of RHIS experts was formed with 1-2 members from 14 Asian countries. There were discussions around the creation of a RHIS webpage on the AeHIN website, the creation of a RHIS database for the Asia-Pacific region, and the conduction of webinars and workshops for RHIS strengthening. A generic advocacy statement for RHIS strengthening was also drafted for the Region.
RHIS capacity-building workshop – Maldives	2018	WHO - SEARO	Officials working in the HIS division of the Ministry of Health in Maldives requested for a workshop in basic RHIS concepts and practice. The purpose of this workshop was to build the capacity of the officials working in the Ministry of Health, Maldives at national and subnational levels on the basic core competencies related to RHIS. In response to this request, trained faculty members from IIPH Delhi, PHFI facilitated the two-week workshop in Male, Maldives from 21st October to 1st November 2018. The standardised RHIS curriculum was used for this workshop. The agenda was adapted and customized to the requirements of the participants of Maldives and their learning needs, with an emphasis on data analysis, demand and use, as per the request of MOH (Ministry of Health) officials. Pedagogy included practical exercises for data analyses using local Maldives data, for ease of understanding the concepts. There were a total of 26 participants in the workshop, including data managers from health facilities of different islands and atoll hospitals.
SCORE for Health Data assessment	2018-19	WHO - SEARO	<p>In the current healthcare scenario, there is a growing demand for good quality health data, especially with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Monitoring of SDG and UHC indicators needs a systematic amalgamation of data from various sources to understand the current strengths and weaknesses of the countries' health information systems with respect to various interventions.</p> <p>The 'SCORE for health data' is a technical package of essential interventions, recommended actions, tools, and resources that aims to support countries in managing some of the HIS challenges in addressing gaps and inadequacies in current data systems and capacity. It can also be used as a monitoring instrument to assess progress. In this context, the team at IIPH Delhi was actively engaged in carrying out a comprehensive assessment of the SCORE package for the 11 member countries within the SEAR region, from September 2018 to March 2019. This assessment included a systematic, iterative desk review and analyses of the available HIS documents at the national/subnational level for each of the SEAR member countries, followed by a regional consultation in Colombo (October 10-11, 2018). During this consultation, each team was introduced to the SCORE package and the data collected from the desk review. They then reviewed the tool comprehensively, further added data available to them, and shared revised updated tools with soft copies of all relevant documents. This revised version of the tool received from the countries was again cleaned, sorted, and updated by the IIPH Delhi team during the second round of the review.</p> <p>By mid-March 2019, the IIPH Delhi team completed the process of data collection, compilation, and revision of the responses in the respective country tools with updated information. The final versions of the tools were shared with all the countries for validation of the responses and scores, and to obtain final approval for use of these scores in the global WHO SCORE report.</p>

Name of the Project	Year	Donor	Short Description
RHIS Basic Concepts and Practices – a capacity building workshop	March – April 2021	WHO - SEARO	Given the COVID-19 situation, this workshop was conducted online and the contents as well as delivery were adapted to eLearning requirements. Sessions were conducted twice a week, each session lasting for 2-3 hours.
Strengthening Health Information Systems – SRMNCAH, VAW and HA – in South-East Asia Region	2021	WHO - SEARO	Objectives of this activity included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a desk review of current publicly available online datasets and indicators for Sexual Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH), Violence Against Women (VAW) and Healthy Aging (HA) in the SEAR countries (including routine data – HMIS/ DHIS as well as periodic surveys) • Examine the quality of these datasets and indicators for SRMNCAH, VAW and HA, and identify relevant missing indicators, if any, with respect to regional recommendations and global frameworks • Draft recommendations to facilitate national-level consultations for inclusion of indicators related to planning, implementation, and monitoring of SRMNCAH, VAW and HA activities in their HMIS/ DHS
Development of Health Equity Profile for India and 5 States	2021-22	WHO – India country office	India is committed to achieving SDGs and UHC, however, it has been observed and reported that the access and utilization of services across various population groups have been disproportionate. This is inconsistent with the mandate of UHC and SDGs. In this context, IIPH-Delhi, PHFI collaborated with WHO India team to conduct a comprehensive review of the current situation in India with respect to health equity and create a national profile and framework which will showcase the results of the health equity analyses.
Online Workshop on “Routine Health Information System (RHIS)” (Oct 21 - Dec 07, 2022)	2022	WHO - SEARO	The virtual RHIS training was conducted for mid-level officials of the South-East Asia region to build their capacities in aspects related to RHIS. The standardized curriculum was used for the conduct of the training.
Online workshop “Strengthening of Routine Health Information Systems” (Dec 12-16, 2022)	2022	IIPH-Delhi	This was a capacity building workshop for healthcare professionals that not only provides a basic orientation of the concepts and principles of RHIS, but also generates an interest to motivate the use of data for operational and strategic decision - making. The contents of the workshop focussed on the role of routine data in health systems strengthening, RHIS data elements and indicators, overview of primary RHIS portals (HMIS), RHIS data collection, presentation, analysis and interpretation, RHIS data quality and checks and RHIS data use to support decision - making and action. This workshop was ideal for public health and clinical researchers, medical writers, data managers, statisticians, and those working in the field of health research/ health information systems.
Health Data Collaborative	2022	WHO Geneva	As a UHC 2030-Related Initiative, the Health Data Collaborative (HDC) is a joint effort by multiple global health partners to work alongside countries to improve the availability, quality and use of data for local decision-making and to track progress toward the health-related SDGs. PHFI is a member of the RHIS working group as well as the Research, Academics and Technical network within the Collaborative and was invited to the HDC Stakeholders’ Representatives Group (SRG) Meeting in WHO, Geneva, Switzerland, which also had representation of the SDG GAP Data and Digital Accelerator partners.



A global team of experts including the USAID-funded MEASURE Evaluation project, in the United States; WHO, in Switzerland; the Free University of Brussels/European Agency for Development and Health (AEDES), in Belgium; the University of Oslo, in Norway; the National Institute of Public Health (INSP), in Mexico; the University of Queensland, in Australia; and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)—developed the RHIS curriculum. MEASURE Evaluation, WHO SEARO, and PHFI jointly piloted the two-week course on basic RHIS concepts and practices.

Participation in Conferences and Consultations

- Establishing a RHIS Network for Asia, AeHIN Side Meeting, Bali, Indonesia, 29th–30th October, 2015
- RHIS Basic Concepts and Practise - curriculum piloting and harmonization, PHFI-Gurgaon, Haryana, India, 6th–17th June, 2016
- RHINO Satellite Session: Strengthening RHIS through Regionalizing Networks. Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research. Vancouver Convention Centre, Vancouver, Canada, 14th–18th November, 2016
- Technical Consultation on SCORE for health data technical package, Geneva, Switzerland, 11th-12th September, 2018
- Digital Health Week 2018 Conference on interoperable digital health for universal health coverage: Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN) Conference and AGM, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 7th–9th October, 2018
- Regional Virtual Conference on Strengthening Health Information Systems to Support Evidence-based Policy and Decision-making, 6th–8th July, 2021
- RHIS WHO Virtual Global Technical Consultation 1st–2nd September, 2021
- Health Data Collaborative (HDC) Stakeholders Representatives Group Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 28th-29th September, 2022

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PHFI team working in Health Information System related initiatives

Prof. Sanjay Zodpey – President, PHFI: He is a medical doctor with a post-graduate degree in public health. He has several years of academic experience in teaching and training students in topics related to health systems. He has served as the Chair of the Global Evaluation and Monitoring Network for Health [GEMNet-Health] and provides leadership to several public health initiatives globally through this network. He has been appointed Board Member of Routine Health Information Network, Inc [RHINO], Boston, USA, and was a global Committee member for standardizing the RHIS curriculum. He has led the IIPH-Delhi team in several HIS related collaborative efforts with WHO, and was one of the facilitators for the 2-weeks RHIS workshop in Maldives.

Dr. Preeti Negandhi (Additional Professor, IIPH Delhi): She is a medical doctor with post-graduate training in public health. She teaches epidemiology, research methods, monitoring and evaluation, and health information systems to MPH students at IIPH Delhi. Her areas of interest for research include maternal and child health, health systems, health information systems, and infectious disease surveillance. She has worked with the State Govt. of Haryana, India as a resource person to impart training to healthcare professionals in the usage of routine health systems data at district levels and below. She was actively involved as a facilitator as well as a trainee in the pilot RHIS workshop at PHFI in 2016, as well as in coordinating the 2-weeks RHIS workshop in Maldives in 2018. She also taught during the Maldives workshop and also teaches in RHIS capacity - building workshops across the South-East Asia region. Also, Preeti coordinated all the efforts in completing the 'SCORE for health data' assessment for the SEARO region in 2018. She is also a member of the HDC RHIS working group and was part of the HDC Stakeholders' Representatives Group (SRG) Meeting in Geneva.

Ms. Anjali Sharma (Manager – Academic Programs, PHFI): She is a Post Graduate in Health and Hospital Management with specialization in Health Management from the International Institute of Health Management Research, New Delhi. She holds a Bachelor degree in Physiotherapy from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi. She is the point person for the management and coordination of the eLearning portfolio across PHFI and IIPHS. She is also involved in undertaking research on Public Health Education, Education of Health Professionals, and Human Resources for Health. She has been involved in the WHO's assignment on the assessment of the 'SCORE for health data' for the SEAR countries in 2018. She was one of the resource persons during the Maldives RHIS workshop and teaches in RHIS capacity-building workshops as well. She is also a member of the HDC RHIS working group.

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