

Geographic Information Systems for Developing and Maintaining Master Facility Lists

An accurate, geo-referenced facility list is crucial to being able to offer effective services in the areas where there is the greatest potential to achieve epidemic control. MEASURE Evaluation has provided global leadership on this issue and has on-the-ground experience working with countries to build national Master Facility Lists (MFL). An MFL is the keystone for integrating information together from different actors, programs and monitoring systems. It is crucial that there be a clear plan for governance issues such as updating and sharing data. Through its technical assistance, MEASURE Evaluation addresses both the technical data schema issues and the governance issues that control updates and use of the list.

1. Global Leadership

MEASURE Evaluation served on the World Health Organization's (WHO) advisory committee that authored the guidance document *Creating a Master Facility List*. MEASURE Evaluation, in partnership with WHO and International Health Facility Assessment Network, authored *The Signature Domain and Geographic Coordinates: A Standardized Approach for Uniquely Identifying a Health Facility*. The signature domain has been used in Rwanda, Tanzania, Nigeria and other countries to enable facilities to be uniquely identified in MFLs and surveys. The project has authored a white paper on preserving confidentiality with spatial data and has hosted meetings on spatial data confidentiality as well as participating in expert meetings on the topic.

2. Country Technical Assistance

In Ethiopia, MEASURE Evaluation developed an MFL that serves as the backbone of the electronic Health Management Information System (eHMIS). Using unique identifiers, the MFL is organized by the hierarchical linkage of health facilities with administrative health units and their placement within the political administrative units, allowing

effective linkage of MFL data with eHMIS report tracker, aggregate reports and the Decision Support System with GIS capabilities. With MEASURE Evaluation's assistance the Southern Region's Health Bureau fully owns and governs the system starting from initial data collection through districts' participation, data verification and updating.

Specific skills and opportunities that can be accessed through MEASURE Evaluation include:

- expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Routine Health Information Systems (RHIS) and their use in developing MFLs;
- technical assistance in the development and use of facility lists;
- organizing and mentoring stakeholders to develop proper governance for facility lists;
- capacity-building workshops on GIS and RHIS strategies to develop and use facility lists with staff from ministries of health, district health offices, and implementing partners;
- expertise in ethical use of spatial data to preserve confidentiality and privacy;
- expertise in using GIS techniques such as heat maps, clustering to identify disease distribution at multiple scales and predict which populations are most at risk.

To learn more about our capabilities visit www.measureevaluation.org or contact:

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About MEASURE Evaluation

MEASURE Evaluation is USAID's flagship monitoring and evaluation (M&E) project. Our objective is to enable countries to strengthen their systems to generate high quality health information that is used for decision making at local, national, and global levels. MEASURE Evaluation is a team of organizations led by the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and includes Futures Group International, John Snow, Inc., ICF International, Management Sciences for Health, and Tulane University. MEASURE Evaluation Phase IV was launched in July, 2014 and offers new opportunities to strengthen health systems through health information systems.

MEASURE Evaluation excels in coordinating expertise across partners to achieve complex, long term objectives. We have broad access to in-country resources (offices, staff) and short term technical assistance expertise to provide support in virtually any country where USAID might request assistance. The project is experienced in working across the full range of disease-and service-specific elements in the health sector, including HIV, malaria, TB, maternal and child health, family planning, nutrition, water and sanitation, and infectious diseases. MEASURE Evaluation's history has been one of collaborative effort—with tailored response to individual USAID mission needs, as well as integration of cross-cutting USAID priorities like gender, country ownership and system sustainability.

