Using Data Dashboards for Results-Based Management and Accountability

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What Is a Data Dashboard?

"A dashboard is a visual display of the most important information needed to achieve one or more objectives; consolidated and arranged on a single screen so the information can be monitored at a glance."

- Stephen Few

Key Characteristics of Dashboards

- All the visualizations fit on a single computer screen or wall space (if paper-based).
- It shows the most important **performance indicators** to be monitored.
- It should be used by the general workforce; effective dashboards are easy to understand.
- Data are routinely updated by a responsible party. The frequency of the update will vary.

Why Are Dashboards Useful?

- Program implementers and health workers need timely and relevant information to perform well. Unfortunately, that information is often located in a disconnected set of spreadsheets, databases and applications, paper forms, etc.
- Dashboards can pull together data from multiple sources in a concise way to easily convey key messages to the target audience.
- Dashboards can also help provide accountability to program stakeholders for progress made or not made.

How Is MCSP Using Dashboards Now and in the Future?

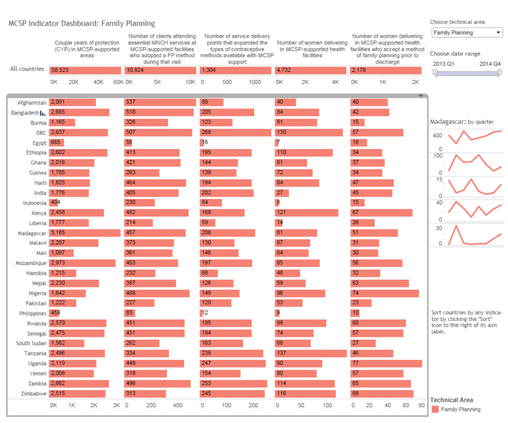
- Internal program management at the global (technical team) and country levels (tracks where we are doing what and results achieved).
- Reporting/accountability to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) by sharing program dashboards at quarterly review meetings and feeding into Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths (EPCMD) dashboards.
- Improvement of service delivery by supporting development and/or use of dashboards by ministries of health at different levels of health system (national, subnational, facility, community).

Approach to Developing Data Dashboards

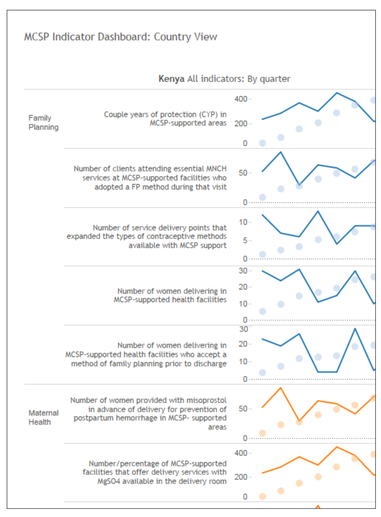
- The types of visualizations selected for use in our dashboards will depend on the story we are trying to tell and the relationships we are looking to show.
- Key steps:
  - Identify target audience
  - Define key messages
  - Determine availability and quality of data
  - Select appropriate visualizations (e.g., tables, pie or bar charts, line graphs, maps, sparklines)

Sample Draft MCSP Dashboards at Global and Country Levels

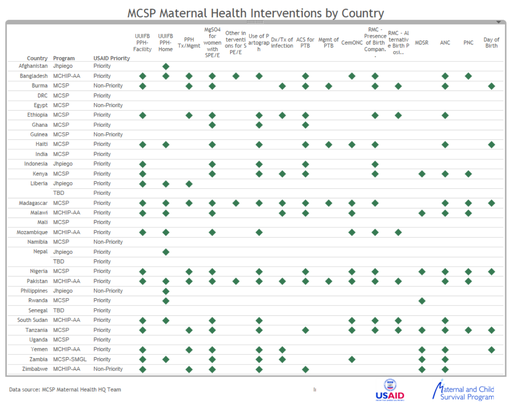
MCSP Indicator Dashboard: Family Planning



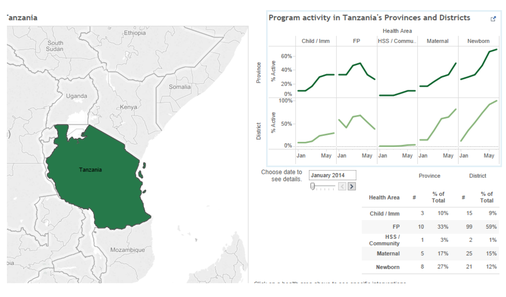
MCSP Kenya Illustrative Performance Monitoring Dashboard



MCSP Maternal Health Interventions by Country

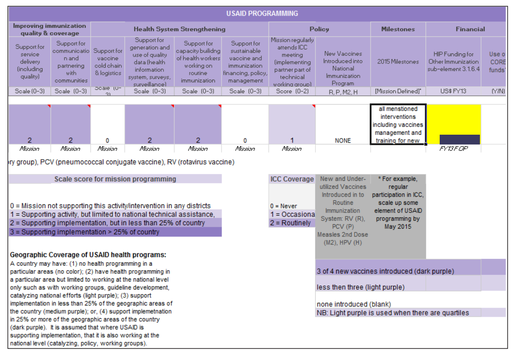


Sample National-Level Service Coverage Dashboard

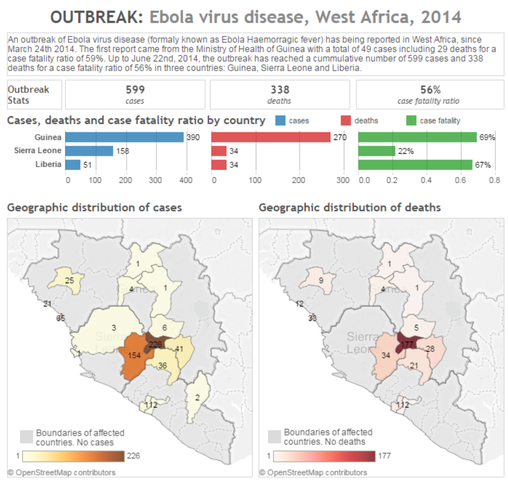


Sample Dashboards at Global, Regional and Country Levels

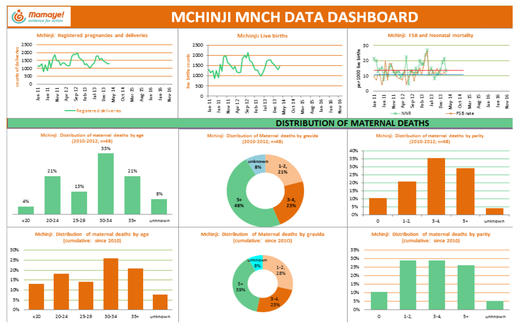
Sample Global Dashboard: EPCMD – Immunization Section



Sample Regional Multi-Country Disease Surveillance Dashboard



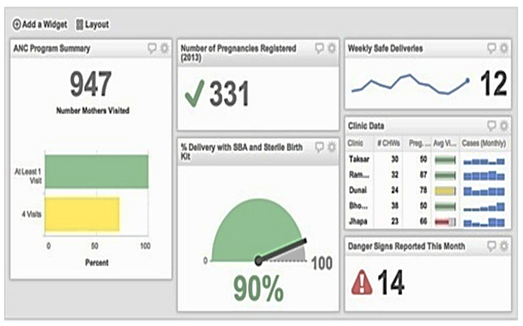
Sample MCH Dashboard at District Level, Malawi



Using Data Dashboards for Results-Based Management and Accountability (continued)

Sample Health Facility Dashboards (Electronic and Paper-Based)

Health Facility Dashboard: ANC Summary

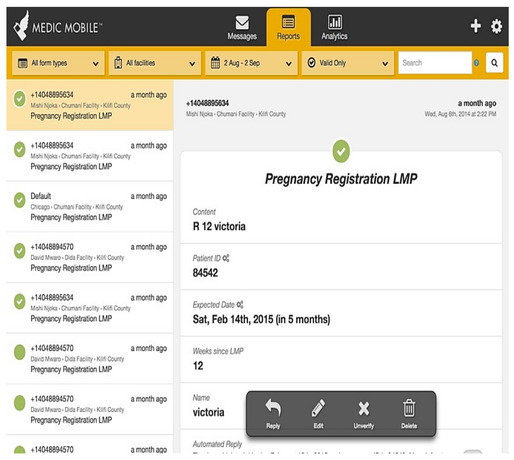


Health Facility Reusable, Paper-Based Dashboard: Cervical Cancer Prevention

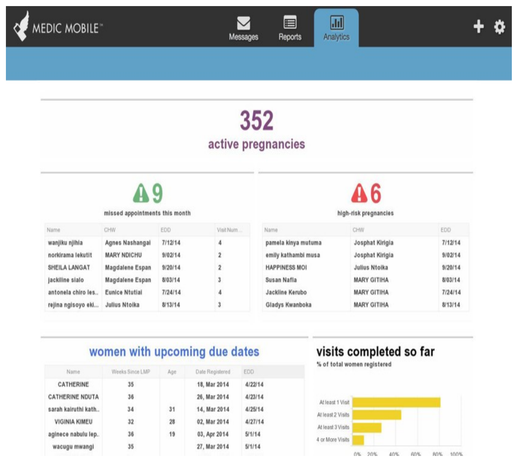
Sample Community Health Dashboards

Community Dashboard: Daily Vaccination Report

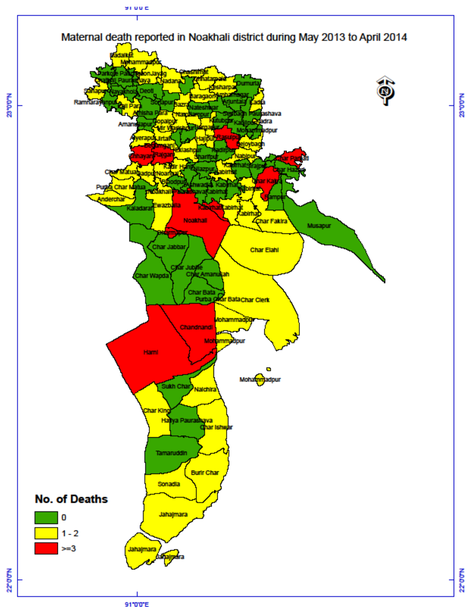
Community Dashboard: Pregnancy Registration

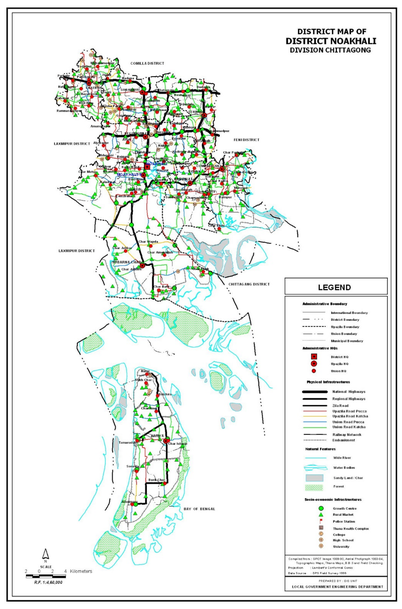


Community Dashboard: Pregnancy Tracking



Maternal Mortality Mapping, MaMoni





Conclusions

- The content and visualizations to be used in a dashboard require careful selection.
- Ultimately, dashboards need to be used for effective decision-making.

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