

County Health Profile

Background

In 2014, a baseline assessment on M&E capacity was conducted by MEASURE Evaluation-PIMA (MEval-PIMA) across Kenyan counties where PIMA was implementing activities. The assessment sought to identify, among other things, the status of behavioural, organizational, and technical capacity in use of data for programming. Overall, the counties were found not to have data-use strategies in place that would enhance a weak culture of evidence-based decision making. Further, dissemination and use of data were not clearly defined, with some counties stating that dissemination doesn't happen regularly.

Under the current Kenyan constitution, the county health management teams (CHMTs) are tasked to plan and deliver health care services on behalf of the Department of Health. To achieve this, however, CHMTs require county-wide performance data on key strategic objectives that are articulated in both the Kenya Health Sector Strategic Plan III and the county health sector strategic plan. Promoting regular use of data at the national and county levels is one of MEval-PIMA's strategies to strengthen the capacity of CHMTs to identify and use data for decision making. Key interventions include developing information products, supporting periodic performance reviews, and supporting the development of annual work plans.



What is a county health profile?

One of MEval-PIMA's products that helps counties assess their performance is a county health profile. This profile contains quarterly performance data on selected indicators that have been identified as critical in county health sector strategic plans.

The main objective of a county profile is to support the CHMT to prioritize key health issues that need to be addressed, and to make informed decisions and plans based on an analysis of data reflected in various health indicators. Data presented in the profile further enable the county team to identify gaps in indicators or data collected, consider data quality concerns, and develop action plans to address issues identified.

Key steps in developing a county health profile:

- Develop profile through a consultative process involving members of the CHMT and partners working with the county department of health in supporting service delivery

- Sensitize the CHMT and stakeholders on what the county health profile is, why it is important, and how it will be developed
- Form an editorial team to facilitate counties to move toward developing their own profiles with minimal technical assistance
- Develop an editorial policy to guide the profile development
- Select priority indicators from the county's health sector strategic plan
- Develop an indicator matrix (indicator, definition, data source, frequency of data mining)
- Design a data mining template—summary sheets in Excel spreadsheet
- Mine data from DHIS 2 health information software and other sources
- Develop graphic visualization of the key indicators
- Edit and review the profile
- Disseminate the profile and develop an action plan
- Document and follow up on action plans using a performance improvement plan (PIP)

Why have a profile?

The expected key outputs for a county health profile are: timely reporting on all health indicators; quality data that is timely, accurate, consistent and complete; and structured and regular updates on core performance indicators that inform evidence-based decisions and plans for programming.

How does the county health profile complement other similar initiatives?

The county health profile is an information product that complements the county's annual performance reviews, providing information on progress made in various health strategic objectives and work plans, as well as in the revisions and development of strategic plans. It is expected that the county teams will use the profiles to disseminate information to the political arm of the government on the status and progress made in the health sector.

Experiences so far:

Profiles have promoted feedback and routine monitoring of service delivery data.

Collaborative work to develop county health profiles has provided MEval-PIMA with the opportunity to assist in building skills within the Ministry of Health and other implementing partners on indicators, analysis, and presentation.

Testimonials from health stakeholders attest to the benefits of the county profile as an accountability tool amongst stakeholders and the CHMT.

