MFL Assessment

MFL Resource Package Training

September 2019
# Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Estimated Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction to Assessment</td>
<td>5 Minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Overview of Focus Areas</td>
<td>5 Minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Assessment of Focus Areas</td>
<td>35 Minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Introduction to Action Planning</td>
<td>15 Minutes</td>
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Session Learning Objectives

• At the end of today’s session participants will be able to:
  – Understand the purpose of an MFL Assessment
  – Identify and define the different components of an MFL Assessment
  – Describe how to implement an MFL Assessment
  – Identify possible challenges and solutions
Review of Terms

• Data Consumers
• Data Curator
• Facility Registry Service
• Steering Committee
Introduction to MFL Assessment
What is an MFL Assessment?

- Evaluation of an existing MFL and its supporting environment to determine if it is sufficient or needs improvement
- If there is no MFL, it is an appraisal of existing health facility lists and corresponding policies
- An Assessment can include:
  - Interviews
  - Review of documents
  - Review of data
  - Group discussions
Why do an MFL Assessment?

- Inform recommendations
- Facilitate development of an action plan to improve or strengthen an MFL
- IF no MFL exists, an assessment should be done to determine how to best create an MFL in the country and inform decisions
MFL Assessment Objectives

• If no MFL exists, an Assessment helps to:

  – Develop an understanding of corresponding policies, institutions, and technologies
  – Identify stakeholders
  – Understand the purpose of the MFL in the country
  – Identify data sources
  – Determine resources available
MFL Assessment Objectives

• If an MFL exists, an Assessment helps to:
  – Determine if the MFL meets the needs of the data consumers
  – Determine if corresponding policies and procedures are sufficient
  – Assess if resources are sufficient
Focus Areas of an Assessment
7 Focus Areas of an MFL Assessment

1. Stakeholders
2. Existing facility lists (including the MFL if one exists)
3. MFL software and supporting infrastructure
4. Policy environment
5. Governance
6. Human resources
7. Financial resources
Stakeholders

- Identify stakeholders who have information for the other focus areas
- Individual stakeholders may have more than one role in the MFL
- Look at Table 1, pg. 13 of Resource Package for list of stakeholders to interview
Stakeholders

• Important to talk to data consumers or others who may use the MFL

• If an MFL exists, ask questions like:
  – What is the MFL used for?
  – Does the MFL meet the user’s needs?

• If no MFL exists, ask questions like:
  – What facility list is the stakeholder currently using and why?
  – What are the stakeholder’s data needs?
Existing Facility Lists

• If no MFL exists, objective is to identify lists that can become an MFL
  – Assess content and quality of data

• If MFL exists,
  – Assess content and quality of MFL
  – Understand what other facility lists exist and why
Existing Facility Lists

• Typical sources include:
  – MOH
  – HMIS
  – Other government agencies
  – Non-government entities
  – Health facility assessment surveys

• Table 2, pg. 16 of Resource Package provides guidance for assessing facility lists
• IF an MFL exists, determine the type of software for facility registry service is used to house the MFL

• IF an MFL does not exist, gather information to determine what software would be best to house the MFL

• In both cases, gather information on:
  – Barriers to technology
  – Other systems that the system will need to interact with
  – Data standards used
  – If infrastructure updates are planned
Policy Environment

• Necessary to understand the policy environment and regulatory framework around the MFL

• Policies will set parameters for how facility data are collected and shared

• Need to identify any policy gaps
Policy Environment

• Questions to consider:
  – Is there a mandate for the MFL?
  – Is the MFL part of the country’s broader HIS strategic plan?
  – What policies are applicable to the establishment and maintenance of an MFL?
  – What additional policies are needed?
Governance

- Understand how the current MFL is governed, OR
- Get input to set up a governance structure if there is no MFL
- Speak with:
  - MFL Manager
  - Steering Committee
  - Other list managers
  - National-Level officials
Human Resources

• IF an MFL exists, document the following:
  – Staff involved (responsibilities, level of effort, organization)
  – Are there staffing gaps?
  – Does staff require additional training?
  – Are roles and responsibilities clearly defined?
  – Does MFL rely on local staff or international consultants?

• If an MFL does not exist, gather information on
  – Which persons and organizations are available to support the MFL?
  – Is there current capacity to fill the various MFL roles?
Financial Resources

• Final goal is to identify the financial resources available and those that are needed

• Can typically get this information from:
  – Facility list owners
  – HMIS staff members
  – MOH budget planners
  – Donors

• Can use this information to advocate for more resources from the MOH, target funders, and understand level of project activity
Activity 1: What lists exist?
Introduction to Action Planning exercise
MFL Action Planning

Purpose:

• To identify aspects of the MFL or its enabling environment that need to be strengthened

• To start defining concrete actions that are needed to move the MFL forward
Action Planning Process

At various points during the training, participants will:

- Use checklists to assess the current status of the MFL
- Work in small groups to identify gaps in the MFL and define actions
- Use action planning forms to document and prioritize needed actions and propose persons responsible for carrying them out
## MFL Action Planning Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GAPS IDENTIFIED</th>
<th>ACTION TO ADDRESS GAP</th>
<th>PARTY / DEPT RESPONSIBLE</th>
<th>WHEN ACTION IS NEEDED (1. IMMEDIATE, 2. MEDIUM-TERM, 3. LONG-TERM)</th>
<th>RESOURCES REQUIRED (staff, tech, etc.)</th>
<th>DESIRED OUTCOME</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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- Each row gets one gap
- Each gap can have multiple actions
- Once the actions are identified, fill out the remaining columns for each action.
Summary and conclusions