KEY CONSIDERATIONS
MFL Resource Package Training

September 2019
Master Facility List Resource Package: guidance for countries wanting to strengthen their Master Facility List. Facilitator Guide for the MFL Training


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## Agenda

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Session Learning Objectives

• At the end of today’s session participants will be able to:
  – Discuss decisions made about key considerations in regards to their MFL
  – Articulate a vision for the MFL
  – Identify gaps in key considerations
Review of Terms

- Facility Registry Service
- Institutional Home
What do we mean by MFL Key Considerations?

• Critical issues and decisions that need to be resolved early in the development process.
What are the MFL Key Considerations?

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What is the purpose of the MFL?

• Prior to establishing the MFL, it is important to clarify what role the MFL will play in the overall health system.
• Important to understand how stakeholders will want to use the MFL.
• Defining \textit{requirements} for the MFL is an important first step because it establishes the foundation for subsequent decisions.
• The process helps determine the specific data the MFL will contain and the functionalities required of the \textit{facility registry service}.
Activity 1: What is the vision for the MFL?

In small groups brainstorm answers to the following questions:

• What role will the MFL play in the overall health system?
• Will the MFL be a part of a broader eHealth strategy?
• How is the MFL expected to contribute the generation of strategic information?

• Use the discussion to develop a vision statement for the MFL. The statement should reflect the interests of your various stakeholders and describe how your MFL will function in a best-case scenario.
Establishing a Steering Committee

One of the first steps is determining who lead the MFL establishment or strengthening by establishing a steering committee. The committee should consist of:

• Ministry officers who have the authority or connections needed to push the MFL agenda forward, make important decisions, secure funding and delegate tasks;

• Individuals who can advise on data requirements, data sources, and mechanisms for data collection;

• Individuals who can advise on the technological solutions for the facility registry service that will store and share the MFL data;

• At least one representative from the technical working groups (TWG) set up to implement key MFL activities.
Responsibilities of the Steering Committee

Who is leading the MFL development process?

The primary responsibilities of the steering committee in the early stages of establishing the MFL include:

• Promoting the wider engagement of stakeholders
• Fostering decision-making through consultation and consensus
• Ensuring commitment and buy-in for the MFL
• Planning for establishment of the MFL including securing resources and setting up technical working groups to carry out specific activities in support of the MFL
Where will the MFL be located?

The institutional home is where the MFL is established and maintained. Important considerations include:

• Who has oversight and authority over health facilities?
• Is the institution best suited to manage and maintain the MFL?
• Are the necessary financial and human resources available?
• Does the institution have the ability to mobilize resources to support the MFL?
• Can the institution ensure the independence of the MFL as a standalone list?
• Does the institution have the ability to coordinate across stakeholders?
• What specific office or team within the institution will lead the MFL process?
• Does the team have the necessary skills to maintain the MFL?
Case Studies for Institutional Homes

Where will the MFL institutional home be located?

CASE STUDIES: INSTITUTIONAL HOMES

Haiti: In Haiti, the unit of Planning and Evaluation was a natural fit to house the MFL and it is now central to the MFL governance process in the country. Establishing the MFL within this unit has proven successful because the unit now uses data from the MFL in its routine health information system.

Tanzania: In Tanzania, three groups have ownership of the MFL: the Directorate of Curative Services, the Information and Communication Technology Unit, and the M&E and HMIS division. All were instrumental in moving the MFL forward and had an important stake in its implementation. Having multiple owners requires additional coordination, but can be successful if carefully managed.
What facilities to include?

It is important to give careful consideration to which facilities will be included. When deciding consider these questions:

• What constitutes a health facility?
  – Develop minimum standards for inclusion
  – Use national standards if available
• What type of facilities to include? Depends on:
  – Demand for information
  – Feasibility of collecting and validating data
  – Budget and human resources to maintain the MFL
• Will both public and private facilities be included?
  – What info sources exist that can be accessed?
  – Do private facilities have high turnover?
Case Studies for Facilities to Include

What types of health facilities will be included in the MFL?

CASE STUDIES: SELECTING THE TYPES OF FACILITIES TO INCLUDE IN THE MFL

Philippines: In the Philippines, the National Health Facility Registry (NHFR) limits the types of health facilities covered to Barangay (village) Health Stations, Rural Health Units, and public and private hospitals. Public and private hospitals are licensed and therefore easily monitored; this is not the case with other types of private health facilities. The vast number of unlicensed private facilities poses a challenge for health facility profiling, validation, and updating. For this reason, they were purposefully omitted from the original NHFR. Future plans for the NHFR include working to add other licensed private facilities such as infirmaries, medical out-patient clinics, psychiatric care facilities, drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation centers, and birthing homes.

Haiti: The 2010 Haiti earthquake highlighted the need for a comprehensive and accurate list of health facilities in the country and prompted the creation of an MFL. At the time, private health facilities provided 75% of the country’s health care services. It was essential therefore to include private facilities in the proposed MFL. The Ministry of Health (MOH) and multinational partners realized there was no system in place to register the private health facilities into the MOH facility registry. Thus, the establishment of the MFL corresponded to the development of an online facility registry service. This online facility registry service included a system that required the private health facilities to register with the Ministry of Health to be able to provide health services in Haiti. This requirement spurred the private health facilities to work with the MFL stakeholders to supply their facility information.
What type of software to use?

It is important to consider stakeholders and data consumers when deciding the type of software to use for the MFL:

- Understand how data consumers will interact with the data
  - Collect user stories to help guide decisions
- Create a vision of the activities and functions the MFL should carry out
- Determine what can be achieved by both short and long-term resources
- Ascertain the infrastructure requirements for the facility registry service
What are the workflows of the MFL?

It is important to have clarity on the following items because they affect various MFL design issues:

• Is management centralized or decentralized?
• How are new data or change requests submitted?
• Who can submit new data or change requests?
• What stage are data validated? By whom?
• Will data processes be centralized or decentralized?
• How does facility registry services interact with push or pull data to other information systems?
• What is the frequency and timing activities are carried out?
Identify a host for the facility registry service

Last key consideration is determining a host for the facility registry service. Examples include:

- Cloud hosting – the list is hosted on a cloud service
- Local hosting – the list is hosted and installed on a local server
- Further detail is provided in Module 8: Establishing a Facility Registry Service
Summary and conclusions