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Partnerships for better health information

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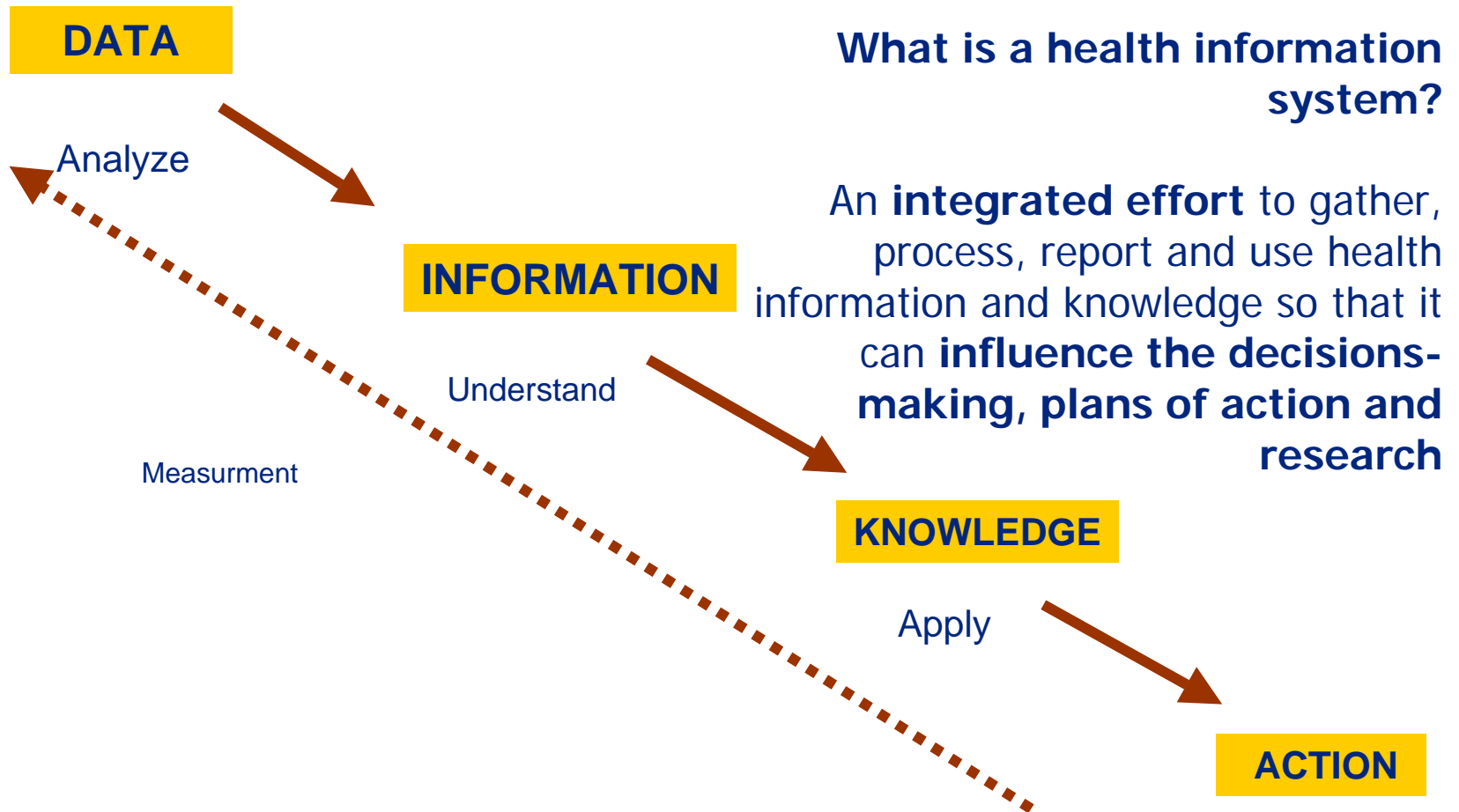
In collaboration with:

| Aga Khan Foundation | BearingPoint | Bitrán y Asociados
| BRAC University | Broad Branch Associates | Forum One
Communications | RTI International | Tulane University
School of Public Health | Training Resources Group

Purpose

- To present an example of how global partnerships contribute to the strengthening of health systems by focusing on health information systems.
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Background



Information is in demand.....

- Multiple users of information.....
 - Patient
 - Health professional
 - Hospital manager
 - Districts and regional health officers
 - National planning offices
 - Statistics offices
 - Research centers
 - Donors

But the information is not available...

- Fragmented health information system
- There is no clear for reporting health information at different levels
- The health personnel are over-burdened with the result that little time is left for reporting
- Limited capacity and resources for synthesis and analysis of data
- Dissemination is limited without focus on users of information



An Information Paradox: Reporting of Mortality in the World

**Table 7.1 Availability of death registration data –
number of countries by WHO region**

Region	Usable data	Complete coverage	Total countries
Africa	4	1	46
Americas	32	14	35
South-East Asia	4	0	11
Europe	48	39	51
Eastern Mediterranean	7	4	22
Western Pacific	22	8	27
Total	117	66	192

The need for global partnerships

- The Health Metrics Network (HMN) is a global partnership with the objective of improving health through strengthening of health information systems around the world.



Goal:

- Increase availability and use of timely, reliable health information in countries and globally through shared agreement on goals and coordinated investments in health information systems

Objectives:

- Develop framework and standards for health information systems
- Support countries to develop and implement plans in line with HMN framework
- Offer incentives for enhanced dissemination and use of sound health information

Principles:

- Country ownership and stakeholder involvement
- Link health and statistical constituencies
- Harmonization and alignment;
- Sustainability; not a project
- Systems approach to health information

HMN Framework

HIS components & standards

Resources

Indicators

Data sources

Management

Products

Dissemination and use

Roadmap for implementation

Principles

Process

Tools

HMN Goal

Increase availability, accessibility, quality and use of health information that are critical for decision making at global & country levels.

Objectives of the assessment

- Establish priorities for a strategic plan for strengthening the health information system
- Promote coordination, build consensus
- Provide for objective baseline and follow up evaluation
- Inform stakeholders about aspects of the HIS which they may not be aware of
- Mobilize technical and financial support for the implementation of a strategic plan

Content and organization

- Excel spreadsheet organized according to the different dimensions presented in the HMN framework:
 - Resources for health information systems
 - Indicators
 - Data sources
 - Information products
 - Data management
 - Dissemination and use
- For each dimension, several questions are included
- Each question has a range of responses that go from 3 (highly adequate) to 0 (not functional)

I. Resources

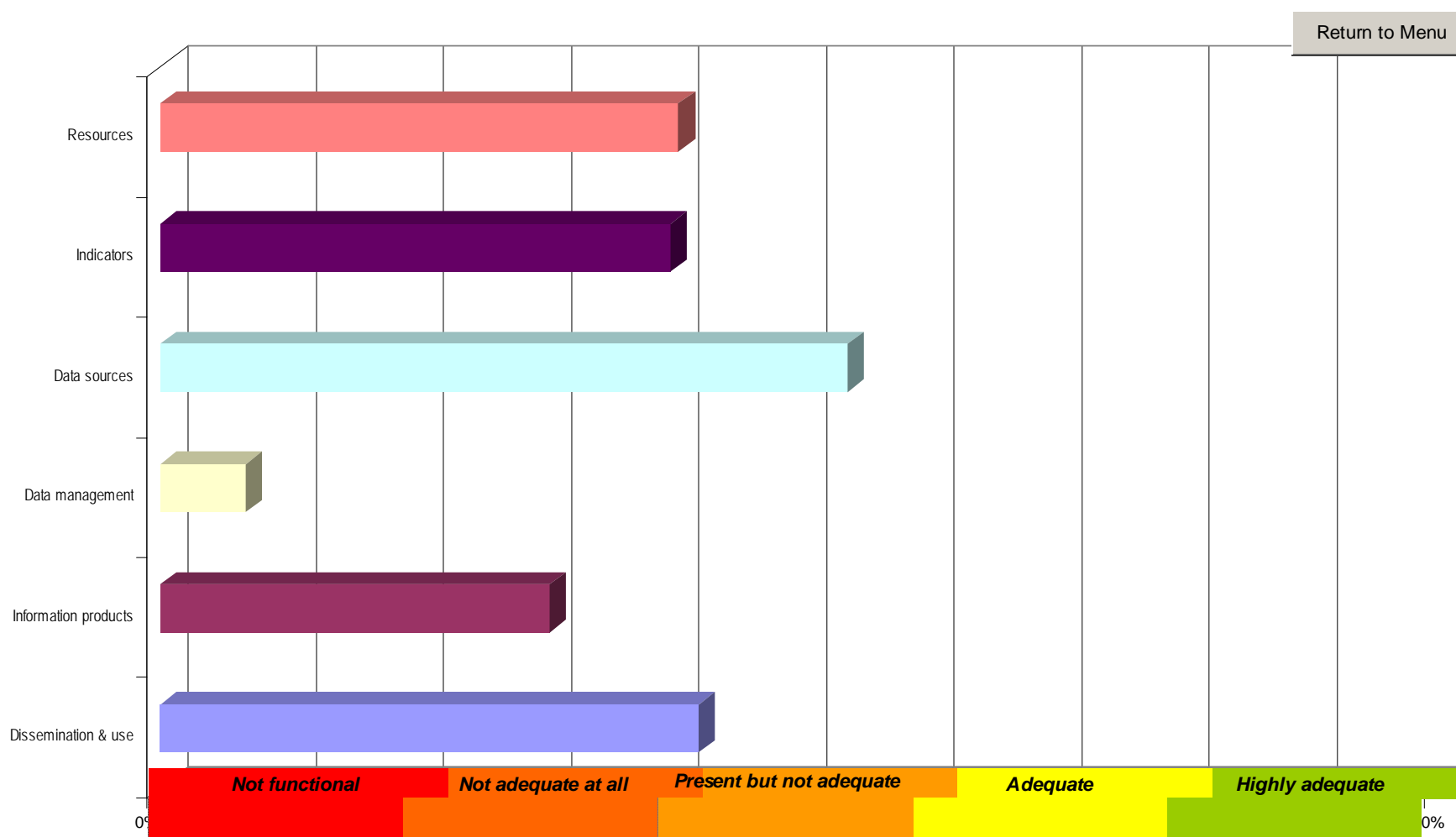
A. Policy and Planning

	Items	Highly adequate	Adequate	Present but not adequate	Not functional
		3	2	1	0
I. A1	The country has up-to-date legislation providing the framework for health information covering the following specific components: vital registration, notifiable diseases, private sector data including social insurance, confidentiality, and fundamental principles of official statistics	Legislation covering all aspects exists and is enforced	Legislation covering some aspects exists and is enforced	Legislation exists but is not enforced	There is no such legislation

- The total score for each category is aggregated and compared to a maximum score to yield a percentage rating.

	Summary of Result	Maximum	Score	%
A	Policy and Planning	24	6	24%
B	HIS institutions, human resources and financing	27	13	48%
C	HIS Infrastructure	6	5	75%
	Total	57	23	41%

Scores are converted to quintiles for the overall result



But the presentation of results goes beyond the charts and graphs, for example:

→ What are the strengths and weaknesses

Example: Georgia has adequate vital statistics (72%) but has weak health service records (38%).

→ For a given item, what was the range of responses, does this reflect the perception of different stakeholders?

Example: Yemen - The view of the CSO is that data is available (3), but the users of the data report that it is difficult to access, that the variables of the surveys are not fully explained (1).

→ What are the qualitative comments

Example: Mexico - There is a legal framework for health statistics. But the different laws are not integrated. The proposed solution is to have a HIS task force in the health commission of Congress.



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HIS –for health prevention and promotion

Scope

All Mexicans will have individual registration of the health actions of health promotion and prevention services they receive in all health institutions

Plan of action

1. To standardize the process of **identifying populations**
2. To ensure the **confidentiality** and safety of the information
3. To use **standardized catalogs**
4. To use **personal ID**
5. To standardize the **instruments of data collection**
6. To update the **health indicators** of the health system
7. To design a standardized way of reporting according to the

level where the information will be **used for decision-making**

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Dirección General de Información en Salud, Secretaría de Salud, México



Lessons learned

- Development of the assessment tool benefits from the participation of many partners
- Country leadership and ownership is key to success
- Cross-country experience sharing can provide valuable lessons – what works, what doesn't
- Global partnerships can foster dialogue, provide assistance and channel efforts towards a common HIS
- Development partners and partners providing technical assistance have a responsibility to foster the development of integrated health information systems

