Lead with Purpose: Reflections on measurement and monitoring of CRVS systems

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Purpose and Outline

- Purpose
  - To share reflections on and propose new approach to the measurement and monitoring of CRVS systems
- Outline
  - Current Approaches
  - The Measurement Muddle
  - The need for standardization and harmonization
  - A ‘Purpose-Driven’ approach
  - Parting Thoughts

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Past and present

- Previous rapid and comprehensive CRVS assessment tools (WHO/University of Queensland) [1]
- ANACoD for cause of death data quality since 2010
- Household Survey & Censuses
- Under Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative developed tools for diagnosis and recommended improvements
    - Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit [2]
    - CRVS Systems Improvement Framework [3]
    - Technical Guidance for Strengthening the Vital Statistics Production Process [4]
    - Standard Baseline Assessment with annual updates
        - Including via publication of Annual Vital Statistics Reports based on UN Principles and Recommendations [5]

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Taking stock of what we *do* have …

Currently

- Indicators from Data for Health resources
- SCORE
- Asia Pacific CRVS Decade
- ANACOD
- APAI-CRVS indicators

Plus

- Censuses
- Household surveys

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The Measurement Muddle

- Consistent and comparable measures of CRVS system performance are broadly lacking in the field
  - In many countries working with the Data for Health Initiative, limited routine monitoring of CRVS performance or ability to set and monitor performance targets
  - No resource to aid in the establishment or improvement of monitoring CRVS system performance and the quality of data
  - Core indicators developed primarily for domestic use vary across countries
  - Basic indicators vary across global partners, placing extra burden on those responsible for reporting

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Thoughts on a way forward

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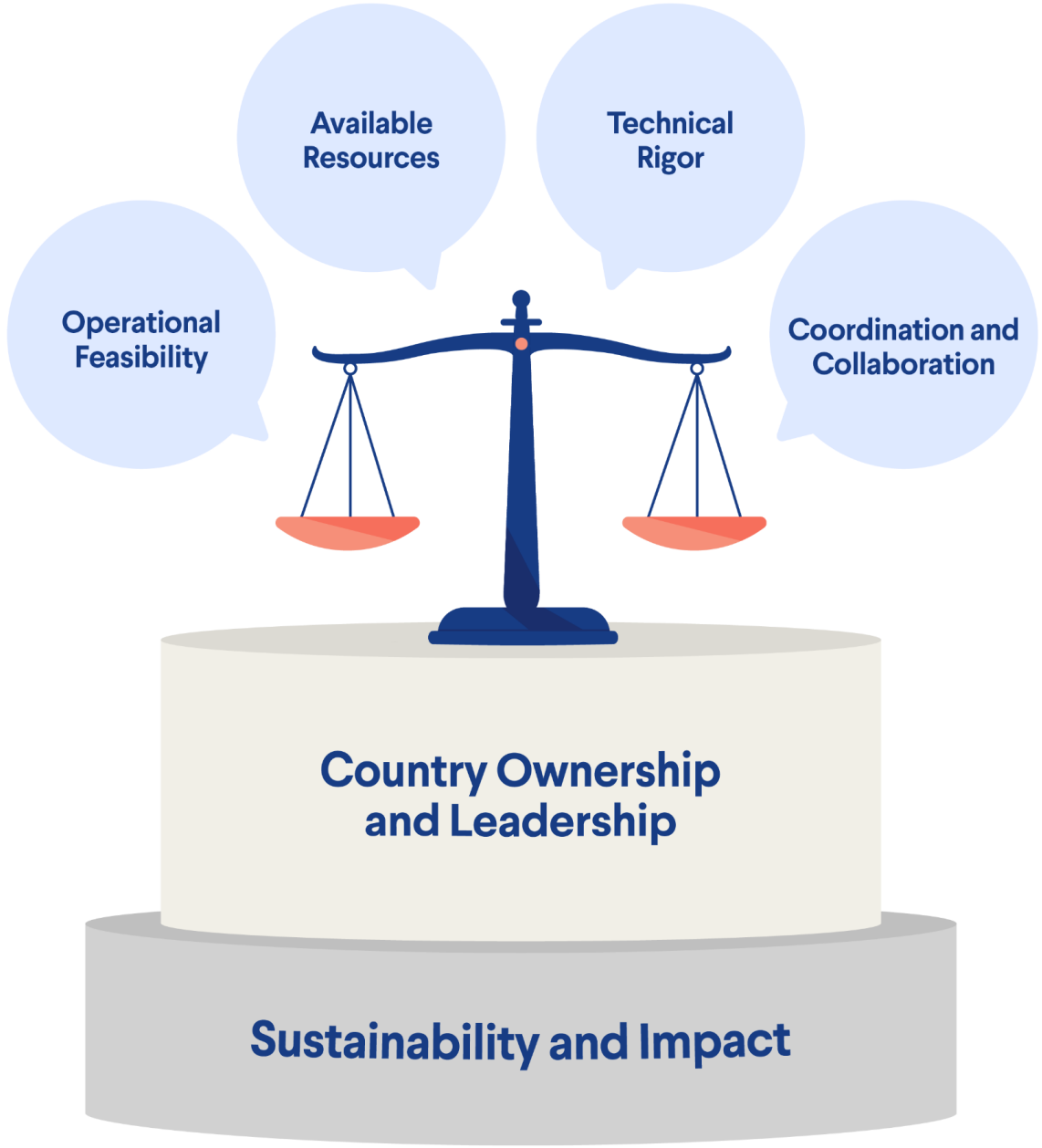
Government ownership, coordination, and leadership for long-term sustainable impact



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The need for standardization and harmonization

- Standardization has benefits …
  - Provides countries with a go-to resource when developing monitoring systems
  - Enables countries to take advantage of best collective thinking about indicators, sources, possible frequency of collection, and potential or intended users and their use cases
  - Enables cross-country comparisons for further learning and improvement
- … and enables Harmonization
  - Can ideally **reduce reporting burden** and challenges of coordinating CRVS performance monitoring among global partners

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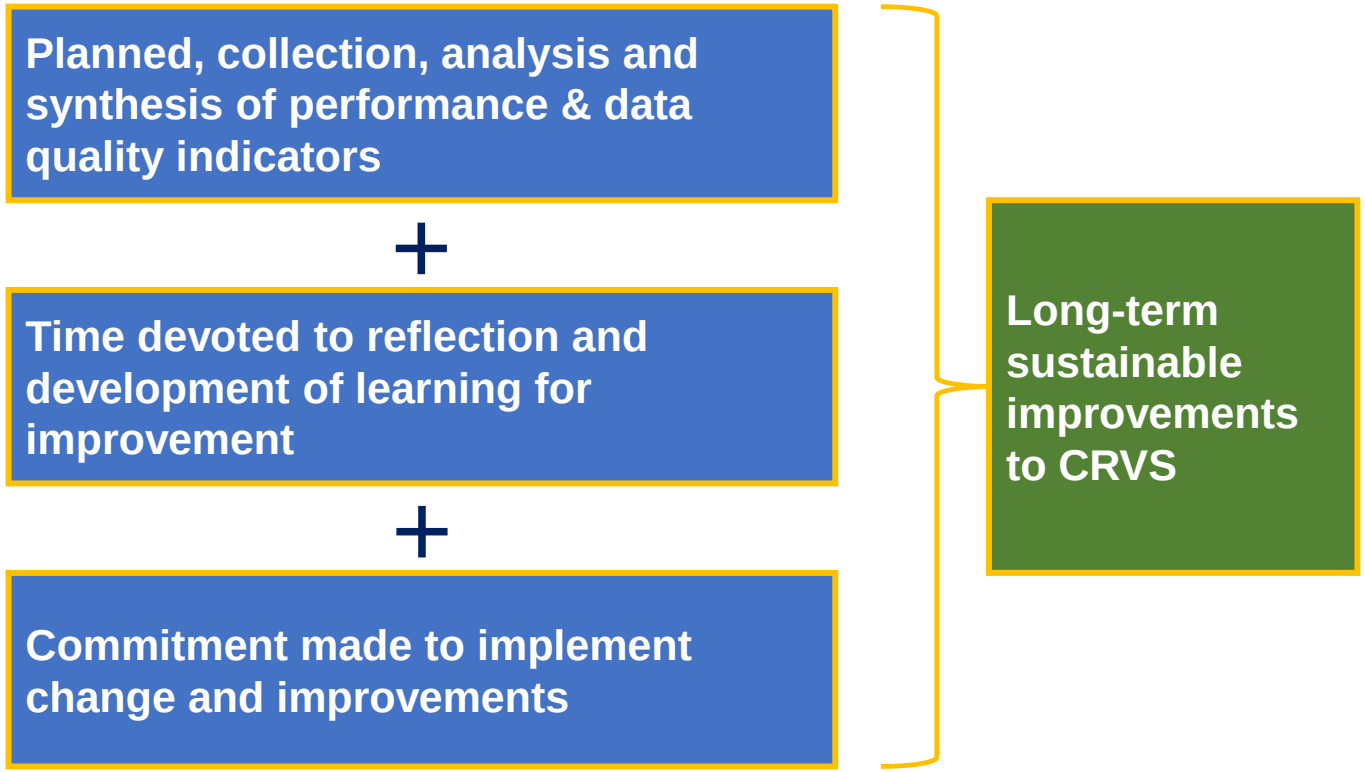
Purpose driven measurement, monitoring, learning and improvement for CRVS

- Three purposes of measuring performance and data quality
  - Learning and improvement of CRVS system
  - Internal and external accountability
  - Ensuring highest quality vital statistics data possible



Draws on “Actionable Measurement” [6] and
“Utilization Focused Evaluation” [7]
Figure based on: Exhibit 2, A Guide to Actionable Measurement [6]

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How to make it tractable …

- Start by assessing the data needs of performance and data quality indicator users
  - Primary intended users must be clearly identified and personally engaged at the beginning of planning
  - The development of the system must ensure intended uses by the primary intended users guide all other decisions made [7]
- Develop monitoring plan that maps necessary business processes to get from data sources for required indicators to use-case
  - Build in feedback loops to data producers
  - Build in periodic stakeholder-wide review and reflection on CRVS system performance and data quality
  - Commitment to action

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Example

TACAIDS Goal/Target								
Public Health Sector Performance Goal/Target	Improve maternal health				Improve maternal health			
Roll Back Malaria Goal/Target								
Poverty and Human Development Report Indicators								
National Poverty Reduction Strategy Goal/Target					Improve maternal health			
Millennium Development Goal	Improve maternal health				Improve maternal health			
Indicator	Maternal mortality ratio				Proportion of births taking place in health facilities			
National Sentinel Population								
Male (Poorest 25%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Male (Least Poor 25%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Female (Poorest 25%)	1107.5	503.0	–604.4	–54.6%	--	--	--	--
Female (Least Poor 25%)	604.3	494.2	–110.1	–18.2%	--	--	--	--
Both (Poorest 25%)	--	--	--	--	24.4	36.3	12.0	49.1%
Both (Least Poor 25%)	--	--	--	--	81.8	87.9	6.0	7.4%
Male Total	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Female Total	934.5	542.7	–391.8	–41.9%	--	--	--	--
Both Total	--	--	--	--	55.5	64.0	8.5	15.3%

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Parting thoughts

- The assessment and routine reassessment of CRVS performance and data quality is critical to long-term sustainable impact
- Basic tools and guidance exist but are lacking, leaving countries to ‘reinvent the wheel’ and leading to a measurement muddle
- Standardization and harmonization are a good first step
  - CRVS principle of “collect once and use many times”
- One way forward would be the development of an actionable, use and user-oriented CRVS performance and monitoring system

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Thank you

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References

References cited can be accessed at:

1. E.g., WHO EMRO, Comprehensive CRVS Assessments
2. Global Health Advocacy Incubator (Data for Health), CRVSID Legal and Regulatory Review Toolkit
3. Vital Strategies (Data for Health Initiative), CRVS Systems Improvement Framework
4. Vital Strategies (Data for Health Initiative), Technical Guidance for Strengthening the Vital Statistics Production Process
5. UNSD, Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System
6. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, A Guide to Actionable Measurement
7. Better Evaluation Knowledge Platform, Utilization Focused Evaluation
8. Government of Tanzania [nd], The Policy Implications of Tanzania's Mortality Burden. Executive Summary, Ministry of Health, Dar es Salaam

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