Measuring and Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
Asian Development Bank Auditorium, Manila, Philippines
02 - 03 December 2014

Session Brief for "Solutions to promote strategic ICT investments (ICTen)"
December 3, 1100-1600

Background

ICT plays a critical role in the development efforts and business processes of middle and low income countries. ICT solutions are needed for health sector management, service delivery, health financing and other health system functions. The question is no longer to invest or not invest in ICT, but what kind of ICT investments to prioritize, and how to appropriately implement these ICT investments to ensure maximum benefits,results and value.   Strategies informed by robust evidence are needed to make the best ICT investment decisions at the right time to achieve optimal results and ensure sustainability.
For that, health sector and non-health sector stakeholders and decision-makers should be involved and provided with actionable evidence-based business cases for strategic ICT investments, which explain what kind of ICT investments to prioritize, how to implement and what benefits and results to expect and who to involve.

This session will apply the evidence-based recommendations from the first one and half days into proposed policies and actions explained by clear business rationales and detailed by 'quick wins' implementation steps.

Session Objectives

Identify key recommendations with actions on:
- why investing in ICT in the health sector; (finance, planning and ICT perspectives)
- what kind of ICT investments to prioritize; and (health and ICT sectors)
- who should invest and collaborate. (health, finance/planning and ICT sectors)

The recommendations with 'quick wins' implementation steps will be complied into an 'ICTen' call for action plan which will inform the ADB-WHO policy brief on 'Measuring and Achieving UHC with ICT in Asia Pacific'.

Session Format and Process: 3 'Advisory teams'
3 facilitated interactive working groups will discuss and develop key recommendations with "quick wins' implementation steps.

Over the first one and half days of the conference, a pin board will be set up outside the meeting rooms, where ideas and recommendations from the conference sessions about the kind of ICT investments that should be prioritized, proposed implementation mechanisms, and the expected benefits and results will be be posted. The conference committee will then curate the "crowd-sourced" ideas and recommendations and group them as follows: a.) Health, b.) Planning/Finance, and c.) ICT.

On the second day at 11am, the conference participants will be distributed into three 'advisory teams' (a.) Health, b.) Planning/Finance, and c.) ICT,)
The teams will discuss the ideas and come out with recommendations for their respective advisory area. The teams will agree on 3-4 key recommendations each and will subsequently work in smaller groups to craft 'quick wins' implementation steps for each of the recommendations.

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The conference committee will build on the 'Recommendations with Quick Wins' to propose the 'ICTen' call for action (Interventions with Impacts for Informing ADB/WHO Policy Brief), which will be presented after lunch. The ICTen presentation will be supplemented by a human interest story to emphasize to the participants that the ultimate goals of ICT investments is Universal Health Coverage.

'ICTen' will be presented as a Prezi to illustrate the point that this are expected to be high impact interventions for UHC. The Prezi presentation will also link the interventions and envisaged impacts with the UHC M&E dashboard – to highlight the need to always measure the impact of the interventions and provide evidence for the interventions (feedback mechanism).

Afterwards, at least three 'commitment islands' will be set up to physically manifest the commitments from the countries, experts, partners- the islands will represent, among others, the commitments on financing, sharing experience and knowledge across countries (Community of Practices, Networks) and sectors and collaboration among stakeholders for strategic ICT investments.

A moderator will then go around the islands with a videographer who will stream the responses to the main screen that would be asked from selected individuals to explain and expound their chosen commitments (the choice of one commitment island doesn't mean that the other islands are not important to the participants, it is only a symbol of prioritization).

The moderator will summarize the commitments, mentioning the following stakeholder groups: public sector, think tanks, development partners, health sector, finance/planning sector, ICT sector.

The session will be closed with the proposed outline and initial draft of policy brief, which will be shared with all conference participants after it is finalized and before its publication in Q1 2015.