Improved Data Quality and Use: Dual Goals of HMIS Strengthening

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Health Finance and Governance (HFG) Project

The USAID-supported HFG project strives to strengthen the fundamentals of health systems in ways that benefit all health services, including those for maternal and child health

HFG applies cross-cutting strategies to build systemic resilience and reach key populations lik e women and children

In India, the HFG project has provided technical assistance to six USAID-priority states and the national Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on health systems strengthening and evidence-based decision making

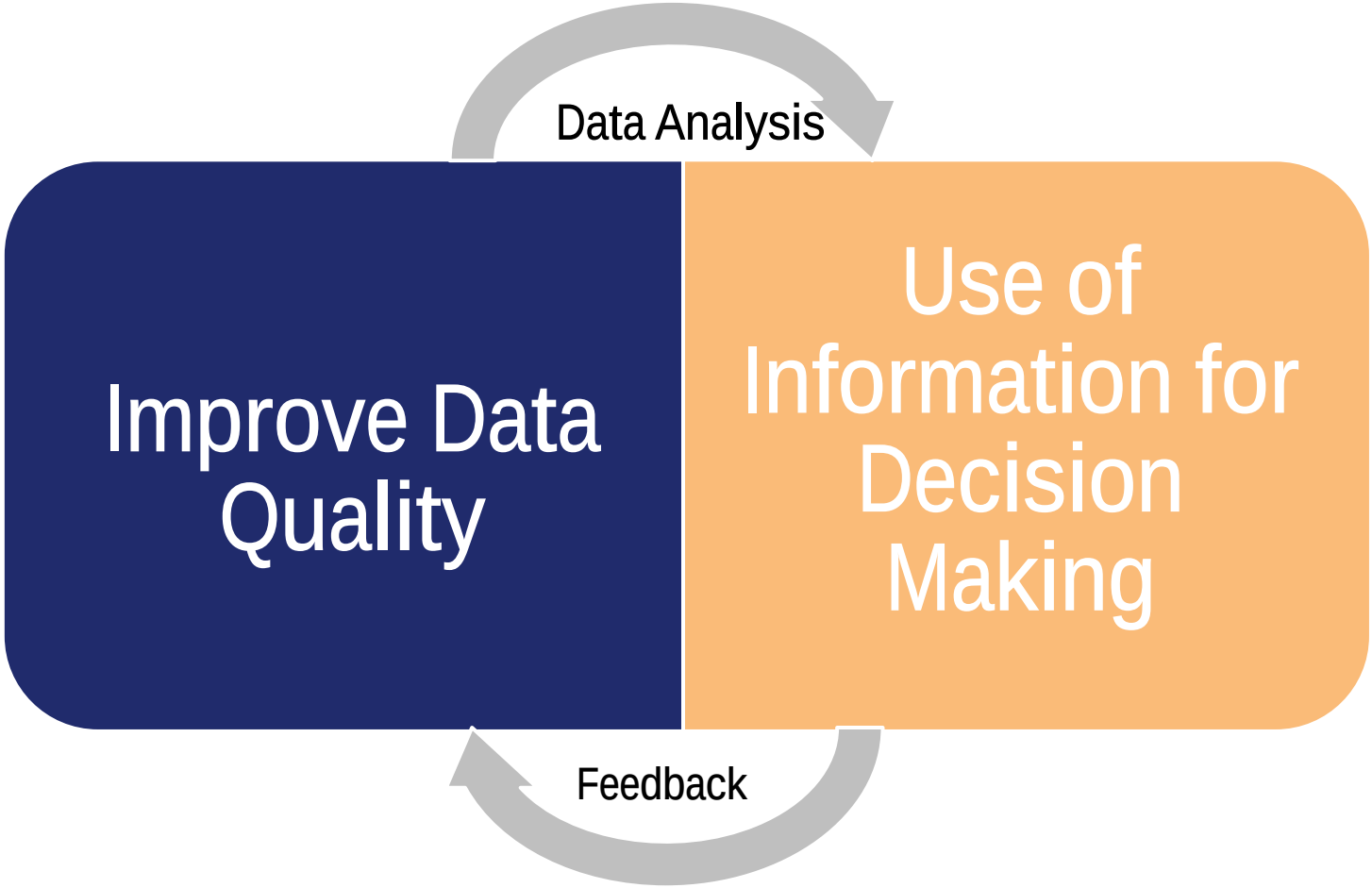
HMIS: Key to Evidence-based Decision Making

The health information system (HIS) collects data from the health sector, analyzes the data, and converts it into meaningful information for health-related decision making. HIS is referred to as health management information system (HMIS) in India

The World Health Organization (WHO) regards HIS as one of the six pillars of a health system

An HIS that provides high-quality, relevant, and timely data to decision makers is essential to ensure a robust health service delivery system

HMIS: Dual Goals of Data Quality and Use



Coverage: HMIS Strengthening Effort

HMIS Strengthening: Application International Best Practices

HMN Framework	• India HIS Synthesis Report
PRISM Evaluation	• Punjab RHIS Assessment
Data Quality Audit	• Improving Data for Decision Making - Haryana

Structured Assessment: Routine Data Quality Assessment (RDQA)

- RDQA exercise was conducted in seven high-priority districts of Haryana: Bhiwani, Faridabad, Jind, Mahendragarh, Mewat, Palwal, and Panipat using the MEASURE Evaluation RQDA methodology.
- Two rounds of the RDQA, three months apart, were conducted at 72 facilities in the selected seven districts to verify the data collected and reported for a month (August 2014 and November 2014, respectively).
- A key finding was the notable improvement in data accuracy over the two rounds of the data quality assessment exercise.

Institutionalization: Capacity Building of M&E Officers

- The HFG team trained 42 district M&E personnel in Haryana and 22 district M&E officers in Punjab on the RDQA methodology, using teaching sessions, group discussions, and field-based practice.

- The trainings sought to equip the district M&E staff with the required knowledge, skills, and a clear structure to conduct data quality assessments regularly in the future.

Pilot Implementation: Testing Data Quality Assessment (DQA) Methodology in Five Districts of India

- A modified version of the RDQA methodology was piloted to assess data quality for a sample of HMIS data elements.
- It aimed to ascertain data quality, identify possible causes of low data quality, and propose recommendations to address the identified gaps.
- The pilot could inform the strategy for a wider application of the DQA methodology to assess data quality and strengthen the HMIS.

DQA Pilot: Findings

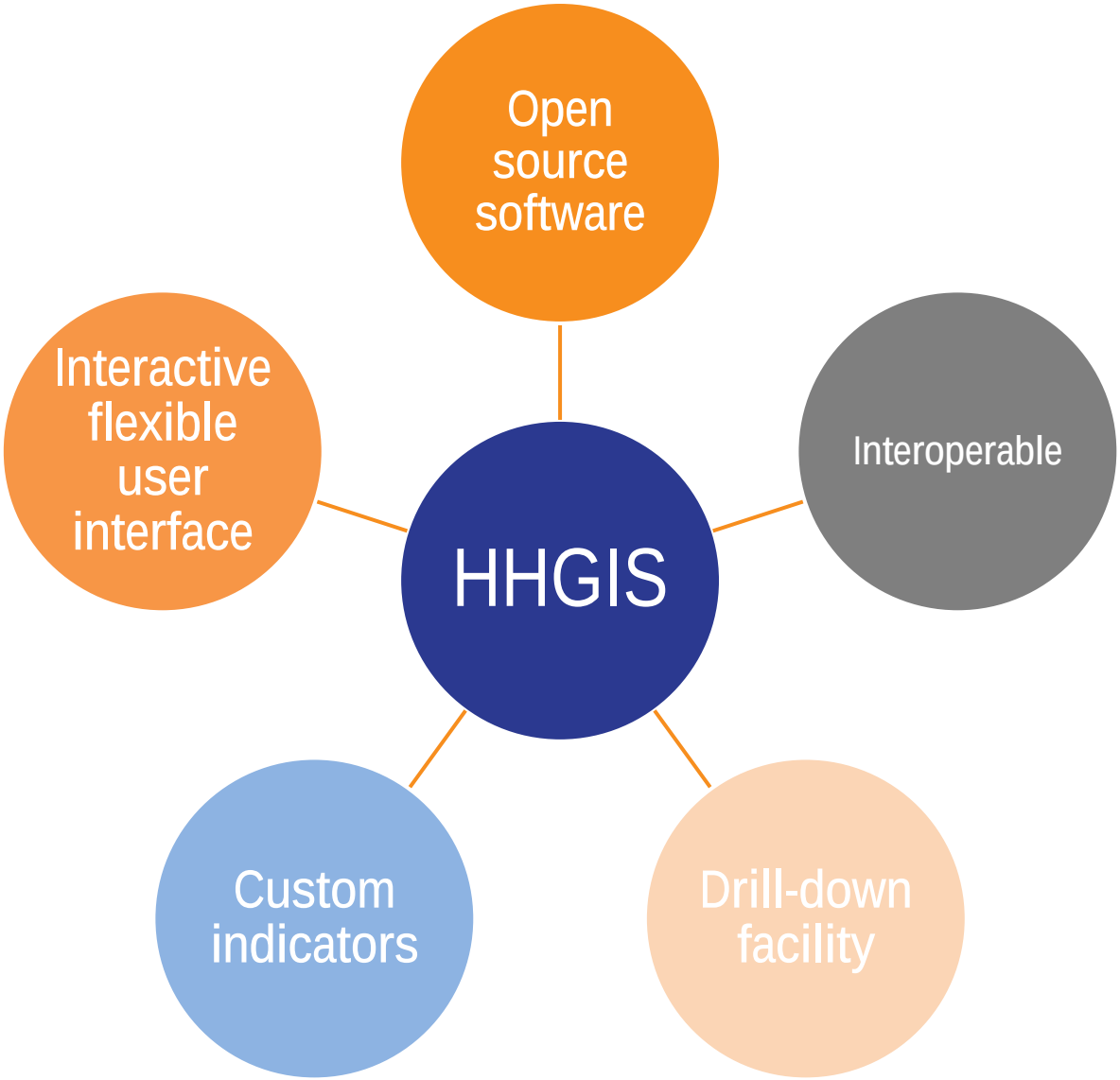
- HMIS performance was measured to assess the quality of data in terms of completeness, timeliness, and accuracy, particularly as it related to 28 selected indicators.
- Data in the HMIS portal was compared with the data in HMIS summary report and the data recorded in the service delivery register to assess accuracy.
- The DQA pilot provided interesting preliminary insights about the coverage, systemic readiness, and performance of HMIS. The insights can help the MoHFW identify areas for further research and action to strengthen the HMIS.

Data Use: Building Capacity, Improving Access

- Improving data use for decision making is a key focus area for HFG.
- The HFG team has conducted data usage workshops at the district level in Haryana to train block-level officials on use of routine health data.
- An innovative Haryana Health GIS (HHGIS) software application has been developed to enhance data access and make data easier to analyze and use.

Haryana Health GIS: An Innovative Tool for Improving Data Use

HHGIS is an interoperable real-time application that pulls together data from different health information systems and brings it onto one interactive, visually rich interface, enabling its users to easily access and analyze a major quantum of data.



Key Questions for the Panel

- How valuable is the HMIS as a data resource?
- How important is it to take regular stock of the quality of data captured by the HMIS?
- How to advance access and use of HMIS data for research?

THANK YOU