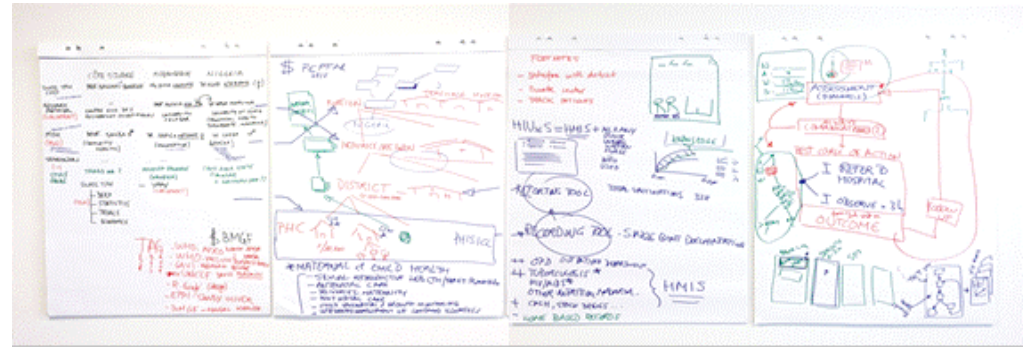




Workstream 1 (WS1)

Inception



WHAT IS WS1 ABOUT?

Paper-based Health Information Systems in Child Care (PHISICC) is a multi-year, multi-country, interdisciplinary research project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, aimed at designing and testing interventions to improve paper-based health information systems (HIS).

The key assumptions of the project are:

1. Paper will continue to be the health information support, particularly in areas where the most vulnerable communities live.
2. Relevant 'information' includes formal and informal information.
3. 'Quality' of data is related to their 'adequacy for decisions' and not 'the best' quality standards.
4. Resources are essential to manage health systems, but in any context decisions making can be optimised.

WHICH APPROACH DID WE USE IN WS1?

WS1 comprised the setting up the whole project management structure. In each country (Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique and Nigeria) we have partnered with the governmental health sector, through a Memorandum of Understanding, and subcontracted prestigious national research institutions (the Centre Suisse des Recherches Scientifiques, the University of Lúrio and the University of Calabar). We have established multiple communication mechanisms in order to establish fair and balanced relations with all partners.

Additionally, a pool of six international experts act as a 'Technical Advisory Group' (TAG) to support project management, provide technical advice and monitor progress. TAG expertise covers: health information systems; immunisation; evidence; human-centred design; and project management.

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF WS1 FOR PHISICC?

The project has been structured following best research practices starting with the gathering of global (workstream 2) and local (workstream 3) evidence. These phases serve to inform the design of innovative interventions (workstream 4), which will be tested using a robust experimental study (workstream 5) in order to build reliable evidence to inform national health policies (workstream 6).

For more information visit www.paperbased.info

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