



Nigeria PHISICC Advocacy Brief

HEALTH INFORMATION FOR DECISION MAKING

There is a global drive for evidence-based decision making in health care.

One of the ways health information is generated is through routine health services. Information generated is channelled through the Health Management Information System (HMIS) which is currently paper-based. Efforts are ongoing to migrate the system to an electronic platform. However, evidence shows that there is continued reliance on the paper-based information system and it remains crucial to the sustainability of the health system.

HMIS has been operational in Nigeria since 1999 and reviewed in 2004 and 2014. Data management, dissemination and use are key priority areas for the Nigerian HMIS but implementation is still rudimentary. There are chronic challenges with quality of data attributed to inadequate human resources and the numerous tools and data sets to be used and completed by the already overburdened health workers. This is particularly so in rural communities.

Moreover, data collected is uploaded through the District Health Information System (DHIS) and is rarely analyzed or utilised for decision making at the primary health care level where it is collected.



Despite this key responsibility, the barriers faced by health workers at the primary level of care in managing information as well as providing quality care are rarely considered.

THE PHISICC PROJECT

PHISICC (Paper-based Health Information System in Child Care) is a multi-country implementation research project led by Swiss TPH in Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Mozambique and sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

This research seeks to determine whether innovative human-centred designed paper-based information tools can improve the quality of health care services delivered at the lowest levels of the health system, especially in rural communities.

The project began in Nigeria in 2015 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the Government and Swiss TPH and acquisition of ethical clearance.

PROJECT LOCATIONS

Cross River State – Nigeria



PHISICC countries - Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique & Nigeria



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: phisicc.org

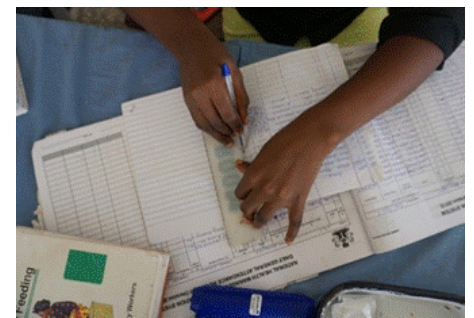
PROJECT GOAL

The goal of PHISICC is to apply the human-centred design approach to create innovative paper-based information tools that will contribute to the improvement of data quality, data use and decision making. It is hoped that by enabling better data capture techniques and making data analysis and interpretation easier at point of care that health workers will experience greater interest in data and together with their patients, benefit more from it.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ✓ **Quick data retrieval** for prompt child care
- ✓ **Free more time for attending to sick children** following reduction in recording time
- ✓ **Easy access to decision making** tool and proper referral when needed
- ✓ **Improved quality of data** due to seamless tally and timely reporting
- ✓ **Integrated follow up** of defaulters for routine preventive care



PHISICC PROCESS

- Project set up in Nigeria-MOU; ethical clearance; identification of study sites
- Characterisation of Health Information System in Nigeria - introductory workshop to HMIS stakeholders in Nigeria, field visits and report produced
- Human-centred interventions design - currently being designed for trial
- Cluster Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) will start in Sept. 2018 for a minimum of 12-months
- Dissemination of evidence for decision making and policy review

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To determine the current role and impact of paper-based health information systems on health system performance in developing countries.
- To test if human-centred redesigned paper-based data management tools and processes can improve health outcomes and reduce inequity.

CONTACT DETAILS

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TIMELINE

