



Country Ownership Strategies: Leadership Forum on Health Information Systems

Announcement: Country Ownership Strategies - Leadership Forum on Health Information Systems

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dates: August 10 – 12, 2009

Effective and Sustainable Health Information Systems Through Country Ownership

Leaders representing the stakeholders of national Health Information Systems (HIS) from seven countries in East Africa will meet in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from August 10 to 12, 2009 for *Country Ownership Strategies: Leadership Forum on Health Information Systems*. The event's goal is to understand the current status and challenges of country information systems and to create a common vision for an effective national HIS.

Together, participants will develop strategies for strengthening national HIS and prepare a country-led action plan that will enable countries to reach their own vision for HIS. This Forum builds on ongoing efforts of strengthening national HIS and aims to accelerate the process.

Well-managed and coordinated health information systems are critical to the provision of life-saving, disease-reducing public health interventions, especially for monitoring performance and planning future health sector investment. Widely disseminated and applied, up-to-date health information aids providers in the delivery of effective services, ensures both the sustainability and accountability of health investments by governments and donors, and improves program and policy decisions.

Participants will be senior officials from several ministries and other institutions in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda that have a key interest in a well-functioning HIS. Institutions represented will include the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry responsible for Telecommunications, The National HIV/AIDS Commission (or its equivalent) and/or Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), Institution responsible for vital statistics and/or census or central statistics, and Military Health Services where appropriate. Representatives from international partner organizations and forum co-sponsors will also participate.

The Forum is cosponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); The World Bank; World Health Organization (WHO); Health Metrics Network (HMN); UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU); East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Support is provided by USAID-funded projects Health Systems 20/20, Health Policy Initiative (HPI), and Analysis, Information Management and Communications (AIM) Activity; and Touchstone Consulting Group, Inc.

HIS Forum website: <http://my.ibpinitiative.org/HealthInformationSystems>

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