Workshop Key Takeaways, Action Points, and Recommendations

Day 1: JOINT APPLICATION PACKAGE SYSTEM

Target Outcomes:
1. Train data teams on the intricacies of submitting joint application packages effectively, emphasizing comprehension of the system's ability to capture essential data accurately and efficiently.
2. Collect feedback from program implementers to improve the joint application package system, focusing on overcoming existing hurdles and pinpointing opportunities for enhancement.

Key Takeaways:
- **Standardized System with Support**: The JAP system offers a standardized platform across countries, facilitating uniform reporting of epidemiological data and drug quantification while being adaptable to various national contexts. Pre-population and ESPEN support reduce reporting burdens.
- **Interoperability and Data Challenges**: While the JAP system simplifies data submission, interoperability issues with national health systems (e.g., HMIS) and delays in WHO feedback hinder efficiency and timeliness. Moreover, incomplete or inconsistent data can affect planning and reporting
- **Capacity Gaps**: Limited in-country training and high staff turnover create skill gaps, reducing system effectiveness. This issue is compounded by insufficient WHO staffing to handle large-scale data processing across countries

Recommendations & actions

Actions and recommendations:
- **Enhance Training Programs**: Develop ongoing training programs for country teams, focusing on both system functionalities and data management to build sustainable capacity and mitigate skill loss from turnover.
- **Improve Feedback and Data Tracking:** Implement faster feedback loops within WHO to enhance data validation timeliness. Consider a tracking tool to show submission status and prompt users on pending updates.
- **Promote Interoperability with HMIS:** Prioritize JAP integration with HMIS/DHIS2 to streamline data sharing and reporting across national and regional systems.
- **Strengthen JAP's Digital Capabilities**: Transition to a digitalized, cloud-based JAP system that allows real-time updates and role-based access for more accurate, decentralized data entries.
- **Regularize Funding Alignment**: Collaborate with donors to synchronize funding timelines with JAP submission schedules to reduce delays in MDA implementation and ensure seamless drug distribution.
- **Leverage the IU Planner for Funding Transparency**: Encourage implementer partners and country programs to actively use the IU Planner to update and monitor funding availability at the implementation unit (IU) level. This will provide clearer insights into funding gaps, enabling more targeted allocation of resources for planned MDA and survey activities, reducing the risk of expired drugs, and improving strategic planning for NTD interventions.

Day 2: FORECASTING COMMODITY NEEDS | MEDICINES, DIAGNOSTIC TESTS, AND MMDP

Target Outcomes:
1. Countries and partners will understand the purpose and rationale for creating forecasts related to NTD supply planning.
2. Countries will know the requirements and tools available for creating short- and longer-term forecasts and be able to develop basic versions using existing tools.

Key Takeaways:
- **Best practices in forecasting:** defining the purpose of the forecast informs the methodology, using a consultative approach that includes multiple stakeholders to build assumptions and provide inputs and using multiple methods of forecasting to adjust for the limitations of different types of data.
- **Monitoring and updating forecasts** regularly is critical: forecasts should be updated every six months and supply plans every three months with actual data and updated assumptions.
- **Challenges for forecasting:** include outdated census or population data data and moving populations, quality of historical data, financial constraints for funding MDAs and surveys, shifting nature of disease endemicity, JAP approval timelines - delays in approval lead to delays in implementation complicating the process
- **Integrating NTD logistics data with LMIS:** case studies from Ghana, Tanzania and Mozambique highlighted some of the benefits and challenges with integrating in national LMIS systems. Benefits are that eLMIS is nationwide and data is visible. Challenges include that the eLMIS system was not decided to accommodate MDA commodities and often stock balance reporting after an MDA campaign is inaccurately reported.
- **Long term forecasting:** long term forecasting serves a number of purposes such as supporting program planning, manufacturer production planning and advocating for budgets for procurement or resource mobilization.

Actions and Recommendations:
- **Forecasting Accuracy:** Routine monitoring of the relationship between consumption and forecasting data. Regularly review previous-year forecasts to identify the drivers of inaccuracy through trend analysis.
- **Strengthening Stock Management:** Integrate NTD products into the national supply chain, including eLMIS, to streamline processes and improve consistency in forecasting and distribution. Adapting national processes to accommodate MDA commodities.
- **Capacity Building:** Involve partners more actively in the forecasting process, leveraging their expertise and resources to improve overall accuracy and coordination.
- **Funding for implementation:** Advocate for the provision of short, medium, and long-range sub-national funding data to inform forecasting and planning for distribution.
- **Longer term forecasts:** a three year forecast methodology should consider potential main drivers that may impact demand such as if surveys are planned and how those surveys may impact demand and potential gaps in funding for implementation that may lower demand.

Day 3: NTD DATA INTEGRATION

Target Outcomes:
1. Improved awareness of the importance and value add of NTD databases.

2. Improved understanding of the strengths and limitations associated with using APIs.
3. Contribution to the standardization of NTD data integration into NHMIS, facilitating better data sharing and utilization across countries.
4. Improved understanding of the strengths and limitations of ESPEN Collect.

COUNTRY NTD DATABASES

Key Takeaways, Actions, and Recommendations:
- Different databases have distinct strengths and weaknesses, but NTD Data Repositories using DHIS2 are preferred for their flexibility, real-time data access, and interoperability with national health information systems
- National NTD databases, like those using DHIS2, provide more timely data for programmatic decisions, compared to the annual reporting-based CHIP and ESPEN Portal, which are delayed and less aligned with current information
- Data divergence can occur when systems independently modify the same data. To mitigate this, processes like ensuring interoperability, regular data reviews, and consistent data sources can help maintain data consistency across platforms

- National systems like DHIS2 are widely used across countries for real-time campaign monitoring and promoting data accessibility and sustainability, though limited data reporting and credential issues remain challenges

ESPEN API

Key Takeaways, Actions, and Recommendations:
- Utilizing the power of an API helps to avoid issues of data divergence
- Using the ESPEN API requires an API key and requires the user to specify a set of parameters that describes the data being requested, such as country, disease, level (IU vs site), among others
- Harnessing the power of the ESPEN API can be achieved using a series of simple steps in Excel and does not require sophisticated software

HMIS

Key Takeaways, Actions, and Recommendations:
- The benefits of integrating NTD data into national HMIS include the ability to track national and global goals, increased advocacy for NTD funding at a national level, opportunities for integrated delivery and data integration with other ministry departments (e.g. WASH, nutrition), the ability to leverage community data collection tools, among others
- Successful integration requires a detailed landscape analysis of all stakeholders and existing tools to be conducted, a well thought-through transition plan, careful consideration of which indicators should be included, among other factors
- Many countries have already achieved some level of success in integrating NTD data within national HMIS

ESPEN COLLECT

Key Takeaways, Actions, and Recommendations:
- Expanding staffing, decentralizing training using a "country champions" model, and securing funding by integrating ESPEN Collect into survey overhead costs can ensure service quality and sustainability

- ESPEN Collect's wide adoption and offline functionality support efficient data collection, but there is a need to improve communication and real-time error handling by implementing ticketing systems and empowering countries with form customization tools
- Both partners and countries value the efficiency of the registration process and EPIRF generation, but emphasize improving data access and control to enhance ownership and align with national data protection laws

Day 5: DATA QUALITY

Target Outcomes:
1. Alignment on the importance of data quality in managing NTD programs.
2. Share country experiences of different data strengthening approaches through various M&E tools.
3. Shared understanding of the current recommended tools to support data quality, what they can inform, and where are the weaknesses.

M&E FRAMEWORKS

Key Takeaways, Actions, and Recommendations:
- **Establish M&E frameworks:** Countries should adopt impact-focused, context-specific M&E frameworks that are informed by the WHO Roadmap Indicators but also clearly linked to the country's key objectives in their Master Plan.
- **Use M&E frameworks**: M&E frameworks should not be static documents, but should be used to support regular impact- and outcome-focused data review with an eye towards informing strategic shifts and improvements.
- **Indicator selection:** Countries should endeavor to ensure internal and external consistency of indicator selections by aligning indicators within the programme (e.g., across different disease areas, ALMA scorecard, etc.) as well as with Roadmap indicators. Resources - including the WHO RHIS toolkit and Roadmap Indicator Compendium - are available.

APPROACHES TO IMPROVE DATA QUALITY

Key Takeaways, Actions, and Recommendations:
- A number of standardized MDA data quality tools for NTD programs exist, such as data quality assessments (DQAs), Supervisors coverage tool (SCT), coverage evaluation tools, etc. (https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/329376)
- Data quality tools often need to be adapted to the particular M&E/data quality issues being addressed, the local context and can be an opportunity to leverage additional insight
- A number of great resources on improving data quality can be found on the NTD Toolbox website: https://ntdtoolbox.org

Day 5: TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Overview and Next Steps:

The establishment of an M&E Technical Committee, proposed by ESPEN, represents more than a procedural development; it marks a transformative move toward a unified and coordinated approach to data management for NTD interventions. This committee, envisioned as an ongoing and dedicated

group with strong representation from key implementers, will provide consistent guidance and support to harmonize monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools and processes on a global scale. The formation of this committee highlights WHO/AFRO's commitment to bolstering coordination within the African region, aiming to enhance the quality and reliability of NTD data. This alignment will contribute significantly to more effective resource allocation and decision-making, ultimately boosting the impact of interventions.

The true value of the M&E Technical Committee lies in its capacity to standardize data practices, with major implementers actively engaged in shaping global data standards. By centralizing efforts to harmonize data collection, analysis, and reporting, the committee seeks to address the fragmented data practices that currently challenge NTD response, fostering more cohesive and impactful strategies across programs.

The concept of an M&E Technical Committee was introduced at the meeting for the first time, outlining key objectives, focus areas, and the potential value added to the promise of gathering additional feedback from all stakeholders before proceeding.

Next Steps:
1. **Feedback and Formation**: Gather feedback on committee roles and officially establish the M&E Technical Committee, clearly defining roles, responsibilities, and objectives.
2. **Small Working Groups**: Set up technical sub-groups focusing on priority topics (e.g., demographic harmonization, data quality assurance) and schedule regular meetings to develop foundational documents on these topics.
3. **Monitoring and Reporting**: Schedule regular meetings to assess progress, address challenges, and review strategic directions for global M&E practices.
4. **Blueprints and Dissemination**: Release, revise, and disseminate blueprint documents on priority topics to standardize practices.
5. **Annual Reporting and Workshop**: Develop an annual report on committee activities and impacts, and organize an Annual M&E Workshop to consolidate progress and share outcomes

AGENDA

DAY 1. JOINT APPLICATION PACKAGE SYSTEM		
Time	**Agenda Item**	**Presenter(s)**
8:30 - 09:00	Registration	Miena MIKAYOULOU
09:00 - 9:10	Security briefing	WHO/AFRO/RSO
9:10- 9:20	PRSEAH (WHO Principles on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse)	PRSEAH focal point
9:20 - 9:45	Introduction to the meeting Individual introductions	Moderator: Santa-Mika Ndayiziga
9:45 - 10:00	Opening Remarks	WHO UCN Leadership ESPEN Team Lead
10:00 - 10:30	Expectations/Agenda	ESPEN M&E Partner: The END Fund M&E Country: Congo
10:30- 10:45	Group photo	
10:45 - 11:00	*Healthy coffee break*	
Plenary session		
11:00 - 11:20	JAP system and challenges on data reporting	Honorat M Zouré
11:20 - 11:40	Country experiences reporting through JAP system	M&E MOH Kenya M&E MOH Senegal
11:40 - 12:00	JAP system from the implementer partner perspective	M&E Kenya M&E Senegal – FHI360
Structured Working Group Discussion		
12:00 - 13:30	SWOT Analysis & JAP Enhancements	Groups
13:30 - 14:30	*Lunch break*	
Practical Hands-on session		
14:30 - 15:30	Groups presenting results of SWOT and Suggestions to Enhance JAP submission	Groups
15:30 - 16:00	**Healthy coffee break - Innovation Lab (Hall – Poster exhibition)**	
16:00 - 16:15	IU Planner ● Inception and use case ● Links to other tools (data flow)	Manta Ray Media Dave Melkman
16:15 - 16:30	JAP Tracking Tool	StandardCo TJ Muehleman
16:30 – 16:45	Q&A on the IU Planner and JAP Tracking Tool	
16:45	**End of the day**	

DAY 2. Forecasting Commodity needs: medicines, diagnostic tests, and MMDP
Time	**Agenda Item**	**Presenter(s)**
8:30 - 9:00	Wrap up of previous day session: outcomes from working group discussions and practical sessions	Coordinators Day 1
Plenary session		
9:00 - 9:30	Overview of forecasting, monitoring accuracy and supply planning	Sarah Andersson
9:30 - 9:50	Evaluating a forecast - spot the assumptions and bias Q&A	Penny Smith
9:50 - 10:20	Small group discussions on challenges and opportunities for forecasting: modelling ideal vs. realistic forecasts	Groups Moderator: Penny Smith
10:20 - 10:45	Small groups report back	
10:45 - 11:00	*Healthy coffee break*	
11:00 - 11:20	Logistics data needed for forecasting: Brief Discussion	Sarah Andersson
11:20 - 12:00	Practical examples: Country presentations on eLMIS integration: (3 for 5 min) Group discussion	Moderator: Penny Smith
12:00 -12:30	Group work: Data for forecasting (eLMIS): challenges and opportunities:	Groups Moderator: Penny Smith
12:30 - 13:00	Small group report back	
13:00 - 14:00	**Lunch break**	
14:00 - 15:15	Breakout groups: Review proposed 3-year forecasting methodology for PC-NTD medicines	Breakout groups
15:15 - 16:00	Group presentations	Groups Moderator: Penny Smith
16:00 - 16:30	**Healthy coffee break - Innovation Lab (Hall – Poster exhibition)**	
16:30	**End of the day**	

DAY 3. NTD Data Integration		
Time	**Agenda Item**	**Presenter(s)**
8:30 - 9:00	Wrap up of previous day session: outcomes from working group discussions and practical sessions	Coord. Day 2
9:00 - 9:15	**Country NTD databases:** Why are national NTD databases import and some example NTD databases	Facilitator (Alex)
9:15-9:45	*30 min: **Break into groups** and reflect upon the three discussion guide questions*	*Groups*
9:45-10:10	**ESPEN APIs:** Sharing data between systems	Facilitator (Alex)
10:10-10:40	*30 min: **Break into groups** and reflect upon the three discussion guide questions*	*Groups*
10:40 - 11:15	**Healthy coffee break**	
11:15-11:45	**Feedback** on morning reflections	Groups
11:45 - 12:00	**HMIS:** Overview of the challenges and opportunities associated with NTD data integration within HMIS	Kevin McRae-McKee
12:00 - 13:15	Practical examples: Country presentations on HMIS integration (15-20 min each)	Moderator: Kevin McRae-McKee
13:15 - 13:30	Panel discussion and Q&A	Moderator: Kevin McRae-McKee
13:30 - 14:30	**Lunch break**	
14:30 - 15:00	Overview on use of ESPEN Collect ● Successes and value ● Pain points and what is working well ● Sustainability	Dyesse Yumba
15:00 - 16:00	Breakout to discuss the role of partners to support ESPEN Collect. The perspective of countries on the system.	Groups
16:00 - 16:30	**Healthy coffee break - Innovation Lab (Hall – Poster exhibition)**	
16:30	**End of the day**	

DAY 5. Data Quality		
Time	**Agenda Item**	**Presenter(s)**
Topic 1	**M&E Frameworks**	
8:30 - 9:10	Developing an M&E Framework: ● Best practice ● Contribution to overall data quality	Senegal representative CHAI
Topic 2	**Approaches to Improve Data Quality**	
9:10 - 9:30	Adaptations to standard M&E tools for enhanced decision making	Erica Shoemaker, Act | East, RTI International
9:30 - 10:15	Country experience with Data Quality Assessments (DQAs): What is the value add and are the tools meeting the needs of programmes?	Country presentations: ● Judith Patchali Patchali, Togo MOH ● Dr.Mama Djima Adam, Côte d'Ivoire MOH (recording)
10:15 - 10:40	Country experience: Nigeria ● Increasing MDA coverage through the use of high-quality timely data ● DQA tools	Nigeria representant CHAI
10:40 - 11:00	*Healthy coffee break*	
11:00 - 11:30	Real time data for decision making: Adapted Supervisors Coverage Tool (SCT) in Ethiopia	Wasihun Toli, Ethiopia, RTI International
11:30 - 12:15	Coverage Evaluation Surveys	Country Presentations: ● Mounkaila Issoufou, Niger, HKI ● Joyce Achan,Uganda, RTI International
12:15 - 13:00	Wrap up of previous day session: outcomes from working group discussions and practical sessions	Coordinators Day 3
13:00 - 14:00	*Lunch break*	
14:00 - 14:45	Brief country readouts of draft action plans (volunteers) Q&A	Country presenters
14:45 - 15:15	Winding down/Q&A period: ● Takeaways from the week ● Permanent working group structure ● How to improve this workshop going forward- will start developing next year's session based on this	Kevin McRae-McKee Jorge Cano
15:15 - 16:00	**Closure ceremony** ● Word from representative of participants ● Closure talk from ESPEN Team Lead	ESPEN Team Lead
16:00	**End of the workshop**	