BECOMING A PART OF HMN
HMN partners can contribute to achieving HMN’s goals in three ways:
1. Direct financial contributions to HMN for its “catalyst” work at the global level;
2. Working with countries to reform health information systems; and
3. Supporting technical or operational research activities that are a part of the HMN work plan.

For more information about how you can be involved in HMN’s work, please contact us.

The Power of Shared Information

It’s a world where every life counts. Reliable and timely information is the foundation of public health. Clinicians, health care managers, public health practitioners, governments, and donors need sound data to identify the most pressing public health needs, as well as the most effective interventions. Sadly, the countries with the most severe health problems are also those with the weakest health information systems. Yet, it’s not because countries are poor that they cannot afford good health information. It’s because they are poor that they cannot afford to be without it.

HEALTH METRICS NETWORK

EVERYONE COUNTS
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EVERYONE COUNTS
WHO WE ARE

The Health Metrics Network (HMN) is an innovative global partnership founded on the premise that better health information means better decision making — and that means better health for all. HMN partners are working to improve health and save lives by strengthening and aligning health information systems around the world.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The world is getting more complex, and so are our public health challenges. While we understand much more than we did 10 or 20 years ago, due to important investments in data collection, there remains a huge gap between what we know and what we need to know to improve health.

HMN believes that enhancing the availability, quality, consistency, and use of health data requires greater harmonization among stakeholders around agreed technical standards. Our partners recognize the critical need to avoid duplication and reduce overlapping demands on fragile information systems. HMN joins governments with donor agencies, health planners with statistical experts, and communities with health providers in a shared mission to align around country-led plans to strengthen the systems needed to generate sound health information.

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MEASURING SUCCESS AROUND THE GLOBE

Informed decisions are better decisions. It is that simple.

■ In Tanzania, government managers from two districts used information about disease and the cost effectiveness of evaluated interventions to improve allocation of resources. These two districts achieved a more than 40 percent reduction in infant and child mortality over three years, with only an 18 percent increase in the investment for health.

■ Mali has shown that enrolling children in an immunization information system can increase the effectiveness and reduce the cost (by nearly half) of immunizing each child.

■ A Bolivia-based health care quality improvement program used information system data to triple appropriate utilization of hospital services.

■ South Africa improved access to essential drugs in one region by introducing an information system focused on pharmaceutical management.

■ In Papua New Guinea, local leaders improved reporting on their efforts to better public health, empowering citizens with sound information to use in evaluating the effectiveness of policies supported by elected leaders.

At the global level, collaboration among global agencies and technical experts has reconciled child mortality estimates, producing a single set of figures now used by all agencies. In addition, sound surveillance and standard data collection methods resulted in improved local estimates and global monitoring of the AIDS epidemic. HMN will work to scale up and multiply examples like these around the globe.

OUR GOAL

HMN’s goal is to increase the availability and use of timely and accurate health information in countries and globally through shared agreement on goals and coordinated investments in core health information systems.

OUR PLAN

To meet our goal, HMN will pursue three key objectives:

■ CONSENSUS GUIDELINES | HMN partners will develop consensus-based guidelines to align partners around agreed upon standards, methods, and analyses.

■ COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION | HMN partners will support developing countries in applying and adapting these guidelines to improve their health information systems, and be the catalyst that leads to the joint funding of these efforts.

■ UNIVERSAL ACCESS | HMN partners will encourage widespread use of health information through policies, systems, and incentives.

OUR TARGET

By 2011, HMN expects to document improved health outcomes that can be credibly attributed to increased use of information for decision making in at least 30 developing countries.
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SELECT PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

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- African Population and Health Research Center
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.)
- Danish International Development Agency
- Department for International Development (U.K.)
- European Commission
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Ministry of Health, Mexico
- Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- Statistics South Africa
- UNICEF
- United Nations Statistics Division
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- World Bank
- World Health Organization