

**INDICATORS OF CHANGE IN THE HEALTH CARE  
SYSTEM**

**TORORO and BUSIA DISTRICTS**

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## SUMMARY

This intervention was designed to strengthen the district capacity for monitoring, evaluating and analyzing trends in health care delivery for improved planning and evidence-based management decisions. The objectives were to: 1) equip health workers in Busia and Tororo Districts with skills in management of Health Management Information System (HMIS) and use of information in decision-making; 2) develop and determine key indicators of change in the health care delivery system; 3) and analyze trends in health care delivery in the two districts over the past 5 years.

The intervention involved residential training meetings for the HMIS focal persons in data management and utilisation after which the indicators of change study for both districts was conducted. Residential HMIS data training workshops were conducted for both districts and they were equipped with skills in data capture, cleaning, analysis, interpretation and report extraction. Computer packages taught were Epi-info 6.04, SPSS 10.0 and MS-Excel 97. Data backup equipment and anti-virus diagnostic tools were also provided and how to manage and use them. The district HMIS system is now computerised and was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2003 at Community Hall and Rock Classic Hotel for Tororo and Busia respectively. Meetings were also held with the DHT on the importance of information and making evidence based decisions. Routine support supervision was conducted to ensure effective implementation and utilisation of the system.

The indicators of change study on the other hand adopted both qualitative and quantitative research paradigms. The study was based on a set of monitoring indicators that were developed from the HMIS while others cater for district specific interests. These indicators which were developed to include district specific interests were in the following categories: 1) funding indicators; 2) Health units indicators; 3) Staffing indicators; 4) Training indicators; 5) Indicators for drugs and supplies; 6) cost sharing indicators; 7) Indicators for service utilisation; 8) Indicators of NGOs supporting Health Services in the districts; 9) Indicators of extra ordinary events affecting health services in the district.

In consultative dissemination meetings, the findings of the baseline study were disseminated in both districts on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2003 at Community Hall and Rock Classic Hotel for Tororo and Busia respectively. The meeting attracted the departmental heads, politicians, DHT, HSD in-charges, record assistants and a representative from Ministry of Health working on HSSP indicators. The representative of the MoH presented the HSSP and the PEAP indicators. The findings indicated that the information for the draft monitoring indicators actually existed in the districts but just needed to be put in formats more useful to the district needs. The trends for each of the indicator over the past years were presented and reason for change explained.

From the consultative dissemination meeting, most of the monitoring indicators were adopted with a few amendments. Those that were no longer applicable were discarded as indicated in the report. The recommendations agreed on are to be implemented in stages depending on the potential of the district.

