



Issues and Ideas

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Premises

- **Successful, sustainable, beneficial RHIS development efforts are rare**
- **International cooperation in support of RHIS development is frequently ineffective and generally, the results are non-sustainable**

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Success and Sustainability

- 2 years later, 80% of units are reporting
- Staff performance is improved
- Policy-makers and managers are asking for more data
- New computer applications are being maintained and improved

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Issues

- **Limited use is made of existing data and reports**
- **The dilemma of the denominator**
- **Too much record revision, and in-service training (and not much else)**
- **Difficulty implementing comprehensive, integrated routine information systems**
- **Inappropriate responsibilities of central HMIS units**

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Issues

- **Focussing on decisions**
- **Inadequate attention to important services and functions**
- **The advent of the health indicator**
- **The charm of the computer**
- **Ineffective international cooperation for RHIS development**

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Some Ideas for Addressing the Issues

- **Engage clinical and PH specialists in system design**
- **Expand household and target group enumeration - share with civil registration**
- **Undertake group analytical and planning tasks (learning by doing)**
- **Design data systems for functionality**
- **Strengthen the HIS Unit coordination role**

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Some Ideas

- **Focus RHIS development on priority health and management functions**
- **Monitor a modest list of health indicators which rely on data of use to field services**
- **Develop computer applications based on successful, useful manual systems**
- **Insure all computer applications are developed by nationals**
- **Plan for the data entry workload**

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• **How to improve international cooperation in RHIS?**

- **Avoid creating projects specifically for enhancing RHIS; build data management improvements into service or reform projects**
- **Expand the sharing of RHIS design and implementation tools, methods, practices and positive results, through networks such as the RHINO**

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Are there principles of RHIS?

- **Can some of the ideas from this meeting be proposed as recommended principles?**
- **Would it be useful to develop a “code of ethics” in RHIS cooperation?**