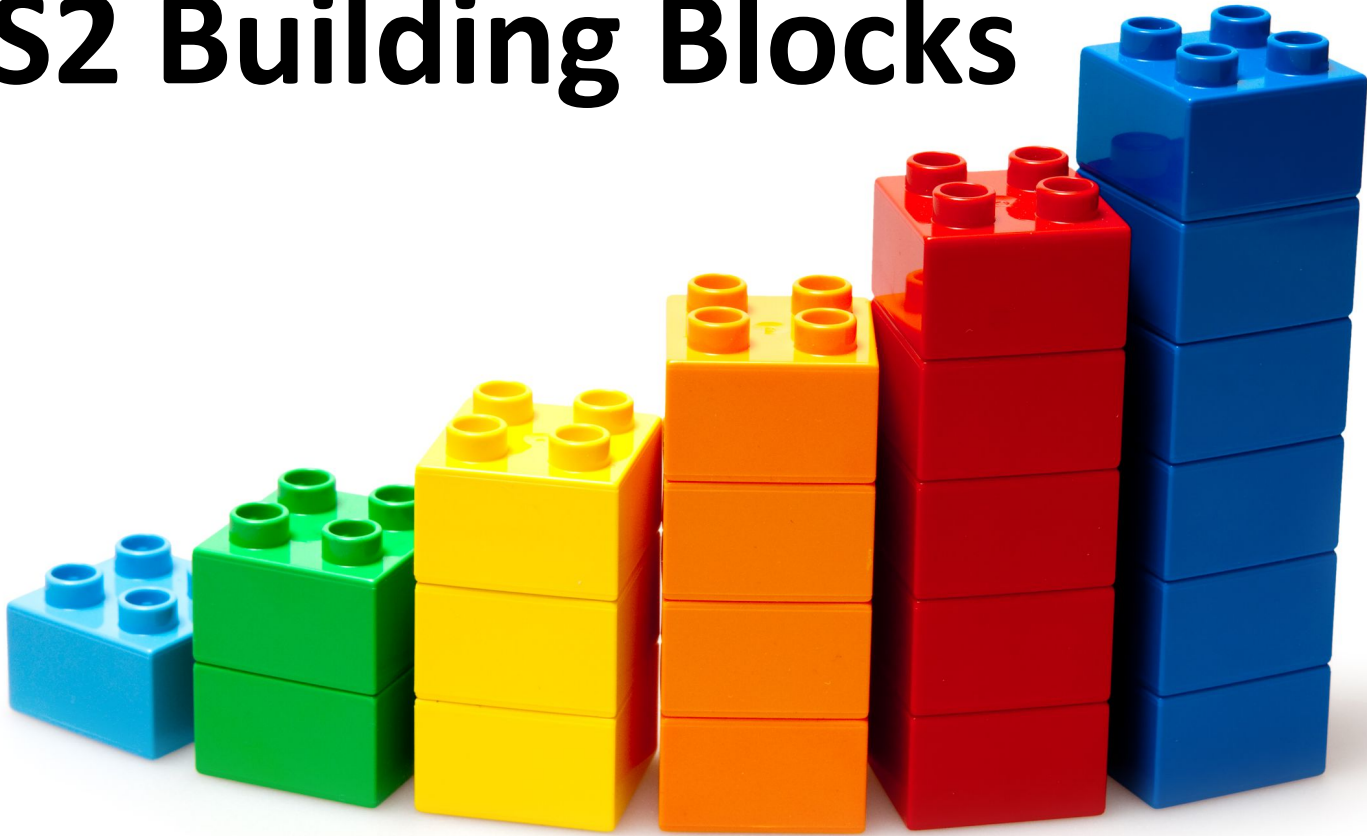# DHIS2 Building Blocks

- 3 core dimensions in DHIS 2 describing the data
  - The where, *organisation unit*
  - The what, *data element*
  - The when, *period*
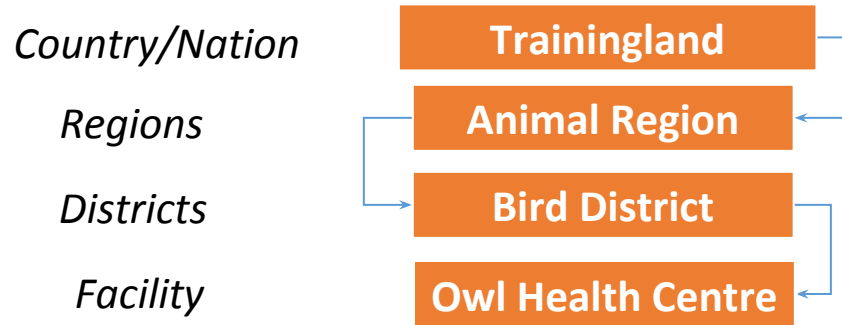- All data values will at minimum have these 3 dimensions

Organisation Unit	Data Element	Period	Value
Ostrich Health Centre	ANC 1st visit	October 2014	100

Organization Units

- Represents the geographical context
  - Facility or ward providing services
  - Administrative unit like district or province
  - Data is mostly collected and kept disaggregated at the lowest level (the health facilities)
  - Reports can be aggregated for any level (zoom in and out of the data)
- Located inside a hierarchy (tree)
  - Reflects administrative structure and levels
  - Great impact on system usability and performance

Org. Unit Hierarchies

- Includes all reporting health facilities
- Trainingland uses a 4-tiered hierarchy system:

Country/Nation	**Trainingland**
Regions	**Animal Region**
Districts	**Bird District**
Facility	**Owl Health Centre**

Data Elements

- Explains *what* we collect and analyse
  - e.g. "Malaria new cases", "Total Population", "ANC 1st visit", "Measles doses given".
- Sometimes referred to as *Indicators* in other contexts
- In DHIS data elements and indicators are not the same!
- Describe the raw data, e.g. the counts and not the coverage
- Can be further disaggregated using categories, e.g. "Measles doses given" + <1y / >1y

Periods

- Periods are organized by types/frequencies;
  - Monthly, Quarterly, Six-monthly, Yearly
- Reports can be monthly or aggregated to
  - bi-Monthly, Quarterly, Six-monthly, or Yearly (and cumulative throughout the year)
- Relative periods can be used to allow easy reuse of report layouts and charts
  - Last month, last quarter, this year etc.