

Data Elements

Data Elements

Explains what we collect and analyse

- "Malaria new cases", "Total Population", "1st ANC visits", "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 coverages

Can be further disaggregated

- e.g. "Measles doses given" + <1y / >1y

Types of Data Elements

- **Routine Data Element:** is data that is collected at regular intervals through mechanisms designed to meet predictable information needs: Such as Total OPD cases / total delivery in a month.
- **Semi-permanent Data Element:** is data that changes at after relatively longer intervals of time (say annually) as compared with routine health data. For example, data on population in a province.
- **Infrastructure Data Element:** data related to infrastructure such as number of beds in a facility, Nature of power supply, etc.

Defining and Naming Data Elements

- Think integrated data repository and share definitions across programmes and departments (it all ends up in the same database/repository)
- When naming data elements, think of how the data will be analysed and used, not how it will be collected
- Use self-contained names that on its own can describe the meaning of the data
- Use short and concise names, no need to include obvious information, e.g. “Number of pregnant women attending ANC first visit” can be shortened to “ANC 1st visit”

Defining and Naming Data Elements

- Start with the most important part of the name, that will make it easier to find in an alphabetical list, e.g. “Maternal deaths” should be “Deaths maternal”; “Neonatal deaths” should be “Deaths neonatal”
- Consider applying codes to your data element naming conventions. This will be particularly helpful when integrating new programs
 - ie. MCH|ANC 1st Visit
- Short names can be used in analysis to display simplified formats of the data elements or indicators
- Drop specific dataset codes (HIV 01.1) and components such as “number of” and “total” from the name

Further Examples of Naming

Name on Form	Name in DHIS2	Short Name in DHIS2
7.1 No. of patients assessed for adherence during this month	ART Patients assessed for treatment adherence	ART Treatment adherence

Name on Form	Name in DHIS2	Short Name in DHIS2
7.5 Number of PWIDs referred for TB	MMT PWIDs referred for TB	PWIDs referred for TB

Data Element Groups and Group Sets

