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TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO. Health Information Systems (HIS)

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Background

Trinidad and Tobago is a stable, democratic Southern Caribbean state with a mixed population estimated in 2010 at 1.32 million people. Approximately 95 percent lives in Trinidad the bigger of the two islands, which seats the capital, Port-of-Spain.

The Organisation and delivery of health services reflect public sector dominance. Administratively, the country is split into five (5) Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) each of which is semi-autonomous

The public health network comprises of >100 health centres, 9 district health facilities (DHF) and 8 hospitals. Consistent with the distribution of the population, roughly two-thirds of health centres are located in the Northwest, North-central and South-western parts of Trinidad. However, each RHA is served by at least one DHF and one referral hospital. Each Regional Health Authority administers services independently but funding still comes through the Ministry of Health (MoH)

HIS: Indicators and Sources of Data

Indicators fall into several different categories:

1. Population-based information – People Registry and Public Health Systems (Census, Civil Registration and Demographic Surveillance – Surveys etc)
2. Institution-based information – Clinical and Ancillary Services
3. Business Management System Information – Finance, Accounting, Operations
4. Health Service Utilisation Information
5. Surveillance Information on Diseases of Public Health Concern

Health Information Sources: Data for Health Indicators is compiled from several sources including the Central Statistical Office and Ministry of Legal Affairs which provide data for Category 1, and Regional Health Authorities, Vertical Programmes and Health Institutions which provide data for Categories 2-5

HIS: Results of Assessment

An assessment of the performance of the Health Information System was carried out in 2010 using the PAHO Health Metrics Network Tool. The results are represented in graphical and tabular format below.

Fig. 1 Overall Assessment of the HIS

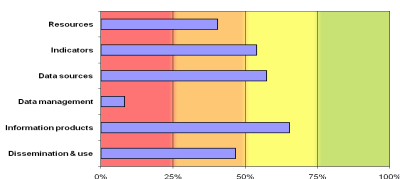


Fig. 2 Assessment of Data sources within the HIS

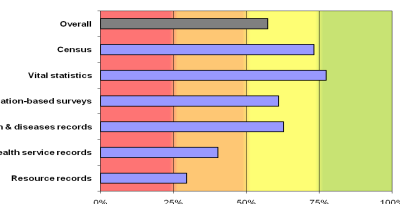


Fig. 3 Component Scores for Data sources within the HIS

Data Source	Contents	Capacity & Practices	Dissemination	Integration and use	Total
Census					
Vital statistics					
Population-based surveys					
Health and disease records (incl. surveillance)					
Health service records					
Resource records					
Total					

Colour Key for Component Scores

High/adequate (75-100%)
Adequate (51-75%)
Present but not adequate (25-50%)
Not at all adequate (0-25%)

Strengthening the HIS: Strategic Objectives

- OBJECTIVE #1:** INTENSIFY ADVOCACY AND REINFORCE POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
- OBJECTIVE #2:** EXPAND ICT INFRASTRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONALITY
- OBJECTIVE #3:** ENHANCE INTEGRATION OF DATA SOURCES
- OBJECTIVE #4:** IMPROVE DATA MANAGEMENT
- OBJECTIVE #5:** BUILD HIS HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY
- OBJECTIVE #6:** ENHANCE DISSEMINATION AND USE OF HEALTH INFORMATION
- OBJECTIVE #7:** PROMOTE INTER-SECTORAL COLLABORATION

Fig. 4 Building Blocks for Integrated National HIS

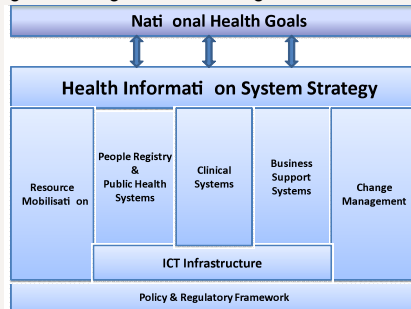
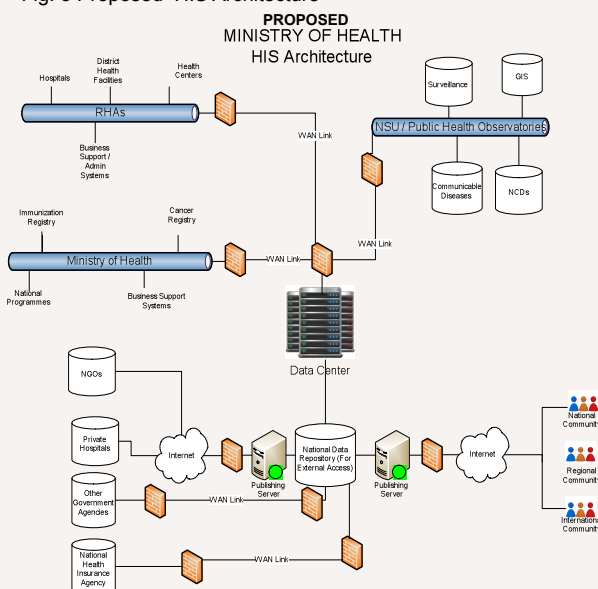


Fig. 5 Proposed HIS Architecture



Projected function of upgraded HIS

•Health data arising from Units and Institutions within the Ministry of Health will be collected in a standardised format, via web-based tools with adequate security, collated and routed via Wide Area Network Links to a National Data Center. Provider agencies within the Ministry of Health will have electronic access to the National Data resident within the National Data Center.

•Health data arising from Institutions outside the Ministry of Health will be shared with the National Surveillance/Epidemiology Unit and Public Health Observatories and integrated with relevant health indicator information arising from within the health system. (pathway not shown)

•Data from the Data Center will be formatted for External Consumption and Posted to a National Data Repository which can be accessed via the internet through Publishing Servers. This data will be available to members of the National, Regional and International Community as well as NGOs, private hospitals and other agencies that provide data

Vision and Mission of Improved National HIS

To collect, analyse and report data and information which support policy and resource allocation; facilitate delivery of coordinated, appropriate and safe health care; and ensure timely reporting of trends in health status, health care and availability of resources at all levels of the health system.

VISION

Trinidad and Tobago will have a fully integrated, technology-driven health information system that ensures validity and reliability, and facilitates access to information to promote, protect and improve the health status of its people.

Source Documents

Ministry of Health, TRT Report on the Assessment of the Health Information System of Trinidad and Tobago, 10th March 2010 [Daniel Doane & Yvette Holder]

Ministry of Health TRT, Strategic Plan for Strengthening the National Health Information System 2012-2016 8th February, 2012 [Connect-to-Health]