



Applying Gender Approaches in Digital Transformation and Health Information Systems Programming

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Major Takeaways

Focusing on gender as an aspect of digital transformation and health information systems (HIS) can strengthen the health system, improve gender equality, and ultimately improve health outcomes. While, identifying ways to integrate gender in HIS and digital transformation interventions can be difficult, and can and must be done.



Introduction

- Prioritizing gender considerations in health information system (HIS) digital transformation strengthens health systems and improves gender equality and equity—and ultimately improves health outcomes.
- Despite broad agreement that attention to gender is critical for HIS maturity, it can be difficult to identify relevant gender considerations.
- USAID’s CHISU program is Intentionally considering gender through orientation, guidance, and sharing both what works and what doesn’t.

Results

CHISU’s approach increased awareness about the gender digital divide and strengthened gender integration capacity for HIS stakeholders at every level by advocating for women’s inclusion, ensuring gender-sensitive data availability, strengthening organizational capacity, and providing thought leadership.

Conclusion

It is both critical and possible for HIS stakeholders to emphasize gender in digital transformation to improve gender equity, access to health services and digital technology for health, and ultimately health outcomes.

Methods

- CHISU institutionalizes gender and tracks progress by orienting all staff on gender in HIS and digital health and applying a program-specific Gender Considerations Guide that is aligned with program strategic objectives.
- CHISU activity teams in more than ten countries select context-specific approaches to incorporate gender in their digital health interventions focused on strengthened governance, availability and interoperability of quality data and information systems, increased health data demand and use, and strengthened organizational development of local partners.
- The activity teams regularly share their progress, successes, and challenges to foster peer learning.

