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 (DHFs) 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 – Survey etc)
2. Institution-based Information – Clinical and Ancillary Services
4. Health Service Utilisation Information
5. Surveillance Information on Events of Public Health Concern

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 Comparison of sources for Data sources within the HIS

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 standardized 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

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

Mission
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.

Source Documents
- Ministry of Health, 2011: Report on the Assessment of the Health Information System of Trinidad and Tobago. 10th March 2011 [Connect-to-Health]
- Ministry of Health 2010: Strategic Plan for Strengthening the National Health Information System 2010-2014. 9th February, 2012 [Connect-to-Health]

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