

# MONITORING THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF HEALTH SYSTEMS:

A HANDBOOK OF INDICATORS AND  
THEIR MEASUREMENT STRATEGIES



**World Health  
Organization**



# MONITORING THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF HEALTH SYSTEMS:

A HANDBOOK OF INDICATORS AND  
THEIR MEASUREMENT STRATEGIES



**World Health  
Organization**

*2010*

# Acknowledgement

This document was developed through a collaborative process with inputs from country health systems experts from around the world, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, GAVI, MEASURE, Health Metrics Network, UNICEF and others. Particular thanks to all those who contributed to the meetings on health systems monitoring in Glion, Switzerland, 28-29 September 2006, and in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 16-17 April 2008.

This publication was produced by the World Health Organization. WHO is particularly grateful to Ed Bos at the World Bank for his valuable contributions throughout the process.

# Contents

Abbreviations . . . . .	.iv
Introduction and objectives of the handbook . . . . .	v
1. Health service delivery. . . . .	1
2. Health workforce . . . . .	23
3. Health information systems. . . . .	43
4. Access to essential medicines . . . . .	59
5. Health systems financing . . . . .	71
6. Leadership and governance . . . . .	85

# Abbreviations

ARV	antiretroviral
DQAF	Data Quality Assessment Framework
GAVI	Global Alliance on Vaccines Initiative
GDDS	General Data Dissemination Strategy
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GDP	gross domestic product
GGE	general government expenditure
GGHE	general government expenditure on health
HAI	Health Action International
HISPIX	Health Information System Performance Index
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HMN	Health Metrics Network
HRIS	Human Resources Information System
IHP+	International Health Partnership and related initiatives
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IHR	International Health Regulations
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
NHA	National Health Accounts
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NMP	National Medicines Policy
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OOP	out-of-pocket spending
PEPFAR	United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
SHA	System of Health Accounts
THE	total expenditure on health
TPE	total pharmaceutical expenditure
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization