From Accessible Health Facilities Data to a Global Public Good

The Geolocated Health Facilities Data (GHFD) initiative is a collaborative effort that provides support to countries who need assistance updating, geolocating, digitizing, and/or openly sharing a single health facility master list for their country. The initiative will also develop a global directory of health facility information that harnesses the power of geospatial data to turn a global gap into a global good.

Strengthening health systems and delivery to better serve communities
Geospatial data enables better planning, monitoring, and implementation of timely health interventions to better serve communities. Existing health facility data is fragmented, which makes evidence-based health planning difficult and underscores the need for better coordination, particularly across sectors within a country and at the regional and global levels.

Increasing data interoperability and coordination
Regularly maintaining and updating four HFML data elements (facility name, location, type, unique identifier) reduces duplication and fosters collaboration and coordination within and beyond the health sector. A unique identifier for each facility enables interoperability with other data sources to uncover insights and increase coordination across programs and systems.

Leveraging data rather than simply collecting it
Data is only as powerful as it is usable. Metadata and data dictionaries ensure consistent understanding, usage, and applicability of HFML data as it is collected and updated by Ministries of Health. Geographic coordinates for this data enable users to visualize health services, identify where gaps are, access compelling data for advocacy, and spur innovation and new service development.

Empowering donors to invest and coordinate
A single publicly accessible and verified HFML per country provides donors with an accurate picture of health facilities. This saves time and resources by reducing duplication and providing quality data for planning investments and monitoring, evaluating, and tracking progress.

Advancing progress toward global goals
Routinely updated HFMLs allow for ongoing quality and performance of care. This strengthens decision-making to increase health impact and drives creation of more efficient, effective, and targeted programmes that advance the Sustainable Development Goals and WHO Triple Billion targets, including universal health coverage.